The DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, No. 75 Fifth Avenue.

TERMS OF THE DAILY: Single copy, 3 cents; delivered by carriers (per week 15 cents); subscriber's mail (per year), $6 00, postage prepaid.

Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., should be addressed to the COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Commercial Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY: Per year (52 issues), $1 75; in Clubs of Twenty and over $1 25, postage pre-paid; one copy gratis to the getter up of the Club.

The money must always accompany the order, and in no instance can Checks be accepted.

Postmasters are requested to act as Agents.

Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIV. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 5, 1877. NO. 100.

The Daily and Weekly Commercial—Newspaper Decisions.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether it is taken in his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made and collect the whole amount, whether the papers are taken from the office or not.

3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud.

TERMS.—REMITTANCES must be made in Money Orders, Bank Checks or Drafts, if possible. When neither of these can be procured, send the money in a Registered Letter. The present Registration system is virtually an Absolute Protection Against Losses by mail, and all Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever requested to do so by the writers.

Communications designed for publication should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh, Pa.

FIRST EDITION.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 4, 1877.

SENATE.

Mr. Conkling presented a petition of bankers, merchants and other business men of New York city, in favor of an amicable settlement of the Presidential contest. In presenting the petition he said: I have been requested to present this petition, weighty by reason of the subject to which it relates, and by reason also of the number and character of those who sign it. The petitioners are citizens of New York, distinguished not only for their prominence as members of society but for the large and varied interests they represent. They are men prominent in each of the great political parties of the country. I observe among the signatures the names which at the recent Presidential election were found on opposing electoral tickets; I observe the names of eminent bankers, merchants, manufacturers, shipowners, scholars, professional men and other names long and honorably associated with leading enterprises and industries. It would be difficult to select in any State of the Union one hundred and fifty individuals and firms who represent a greater sum of property, intelligence and character, or who as petitioners deserve more consideration. In laying this petition before the Senate, it may not be amiss to add an avowal of my sympathy with its appeal for orderly, lawful and patriotic action. In executing the Constitution in any instance, and especially in an instance so grave as the one referred to, partisan feeling as a guide and rule of action can rightfully have no place. Obedience to law, observance of the Constitution and maintenance of truth is not a party question or proceeding; it is beyond party and above party. Parties may contend—and I believe it is wholesome in a free government that parties should contend over measures and candidates—but when the contest has been submitted to the ballot box, the final arbitrament of popular contests, the only instrument known in our system, the only duty, the only lawful proceeding connected with it which remains is to find the honest and true result, to declare it, how to it and stand by it. That is the duty of the hour. In our form of two Houses of Congress; it rests on the nation; it rests on every citizen of the Republic that it will be done, and done peacefully, decently and in order. These politicians do not, I think, disbelieve they in common with all men may derive confidence from the fact that interest and expediency, not less than patriotism and honor, point in one direction and teach one lesson: Whoever stands on the right and truth will not fail; whoever attempts to stand on wrong and falsehood will be overthrown.

The petition was referred to the special committee of seven Senators to devise means for a proper count of the electoral vote.

Mr. Wright, in a speech favoring his electoral bill, said: Under no consideration, as it seems to me, can it be claimed that Congress in any capacity (certainly not in the absence of legislation) has judicial powers or any other power than to inquire and declare what the people through their electors, on the face of the returns, have said as to their choice for President. In so doing I do not lose sight of the different theories as to how this result is to be reached, and who is to declare it. I am sufficiently understood for my present purpose, I hope, when I repeat that in the absence of some law there is no person to investigate and determine whether there was fraud in any State or that; whether the State law was wise or unwise, in providing for the organization of its returning board; whether a hundred men here or a thousand there would have voted differently but for intimidation, corruption, violence or fraud; whether the returning or canvassing board or tribunal in a State reached the true result from all the facts before them or the like; for whatever any one may think as to the powers of the presiding officer or of the two Houses acting separately or together, the law as gathered from almost if not quite unbroken precedents from the very foundation of the Government would clearly seem to teach that our powers are purely ministerial, not at all judicial. In the exercise of these powers, however, allow me to say that I do not suggest by any means that either presiding officer or tribunal or forum having a right to decide would be concluded by the mere declaration of a result upon the face of a return, if the same paper, return, record or that which by well settled rules and fair logic and law is a part, if it shows that the declaration is itself false or untrue.

Mr. Wright then referred at some length to the appointment of Cronin as Presidential elector in Oregon, and said he acted as if impelled by what he believed by others. He [Wright] had no admiration for a man who conceives a mean or cunningly devised scheme, and is wanting in courage to execute it. He did not think Waite was appointed or elected within the meaning of the Constitution, but his ineligibility did not elect Cronin.

Messrs. Kernan and Sherman spoke briefly upon the question, and the bill of Mr. Wright was referred to the special committee to devise means for counting the vote, and the Senate took consideration of the bill declaring the true intent and meaning of the Union Pacific Railroad acts.

Mr. Ingalls was entitled to the floor, but a quorum not being present, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Willis introduced a bill providing for the repeal of all taxes on the capital and deposits of State and national banks and banking institutions. Referred.

Mr. McCrary offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Interior to transmit to the House a copy of the latest report of the Governors and Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Brown, the Senate amendments to the bill for the sale of saline lands were concurred in.

Several bills were taken up and referred.

Mr. Clymer, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the Military Academy Appropriation bill. Made the special order for Monday next. It appropriates $265,161.

The House then considered the bill reported from the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice, fixing the compensation of United States marshals and deputies, the pending question being an amendment of Mr. Conger striking out the clause limiting the compensation of deputies to $1,200. The amendment was defeated and the bill passed.

Mr. Durham, from the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice, reported a bill fixing the compensation of United States attorneys. It provides that attorneys shall receive a yearly salary in lieu of fees. The largest compensation allowed is that of the District Attorney for the Southern district of New York, $10,000. Referred to the Committee of the Whole, and made the special order for Wednesday next.

Mr. Reagan, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill making the ports of Brownsville and Galveston, Texas, ports to which unappraised merchandise may be imported. Passed.

Mr. Goodin, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back the bill relative to proof required in homestead enteries with the Senate amendments concurred in.

Mr. Kidder, of Dakota, from the same committee, reported back the bill giving parties contestant time to enter land under the pre-emption, homestead or timber culture acts, after the contest shall have been finally decided. Passed.

The House went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Harris, of Virginia, in the chair, on the state of the Union, the first bill being the one reported by Mr. Hewitt, of Alabama, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, granting pensions to certain soldiers and sailors of the Mexican, Florida and Black Hawk war, and certain widows of deceased soldiers and sailors of the same.

Mr. Reagan moved to strike out the fifth section of the bill, which excludes from its benefits those who are laboring under political disabilities. He argued that the bill should be broad and charitable in its provisions.

Mr. Rusk opposed the motion, as one effect of which would be to make Jefferson Davis a pensioner of the Government. The motion was rejected.

The bill was passed. It allows a pension of eight dollars a month to all who served sixty days in the Mexican war or thirty days in the Florida or Black Hawk wars, and to their surviving widows unmarried.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Willis, of New York, in the chair, on the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bill, appropriating $1,137,085.

Mr. Singleton, a member of the Appropriation Committee, who has charge of the bill, proceeded to explain it. He said that it was to all intents and purposes the same as the bill passed last session. The committee was of opinion that changes and reductions might be advantageously made, but did not feel that it was desirable to try and carry out these changes at the present session. In reply to a question by Mr. Monroe, he said that the rank or pay of consulates were not interfered with in this bill.

The committee rose without action on the bill.

Mr. Foster, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported a bill to supply deficiencies in the contingent funds of the House. It was made the special order for to-morrow. It appropriates $42,337.

Mr. Throckmorton asked leave to offer a resolution instructing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the present strength, location and occupation of the army, the force on the frontier, in the Southern States and in Washington, why troops were ordered to Washington, the nature of the orders, by whom made, the purpose, &c., with leave to send for person and papers.

Several objections were made on the Republican side, and the House adjourned.

DEATH OF VANDERBILT.

The Last Moments of the Railway King—Conscious to the Last — His Vast Wealth.

NEW YORK, January 4.—Commodore Vanderbilt died this morning at nine minutes to eleven o'clock, at his residence, Washington Place.

Commodore Vanderbilt remained conscious to the last moment of his life, and died almost without a struggle. Ever since Tuesday it has been apparent to his doctors that his hours were numbered, and at the most he could only live a few days or a week. At four this morning his condition became rapidly worse, and he expressed a desire to see Rev. Dr. Deems, his spiritual adviser. The latter arrived in a few minutes and Commodore Vanderbilt said, "I think I am nearly gone, Doctor." Dr. Deems prayed by the bedside of the dying man, and then some members of the family sang a few hymns in a low tone. The music seemed to soothe the sufferer. All his family were sent for during the night, and when he died they were by his bedside.

His eldest son, William H. Vanderbilt, arrived soon after midnight, and remained to the end. All his daughters were present, and his wife, who has been present by his bedside during the entire period of his sickness, was at her post as usual. Doctors Dudley and Elliott were also in attendance. They warned both Commodore Vanderbilt and his friends to expect the worst. The news of his death spread rapidly, and very many friends called at the house this morning and sympathized with the mourners.

Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., arrived just before his father died. The funeral will take place Sunday at 10:30.

The news of the Commodore's death had little effect on the market, his death having been generally expected. The decline in prices of stocks ran from one fourth to one-eighth per cent., occurred early in the day, and a part of it has been recovered since noon. The three stocks with which Commodore Vanderbilt was identified were New York Central and Hudson, Harlem and Lake Shore. The first named closed yesterday at 101; opened to-day at 100¾, fell to 100¼ and advanced to 101. Lake Shore opened as it closed yesterday at 56¾, fell to 55½, and has since returned to 56¾. Harlem, of which there were no sales yesterday, was quoted yesterday at 135½@137½, and to-day has sold 100 shares at 136.

It is estimated by those in a position to judge that Commodore Vanderbilt was the owner of securities having a present market value of about $85,500,000 and that of that sum $55,000,000 consisted of stocks and bond of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. It is understood the bulk of this vast property is to be kept together, and that provision has been made for reinvesting the accruing interest on it in his favorite securities.

As soon as the news had been received at City Hall the flags were lowered to half-mast—a course which was soon after followed by the principal hotels and other public buildings.

The preparations for the funeral of Commodore Vanderbilt will not be completed until to-morrow. Dr. Deems will perform the burial service in the Church of the Stranger on Sunday morning, after which the remains will be interred in the family vault at New Dorp, Staten Island. Admission to the church will be by ticket.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

On Wednesday, while attempting to cross the river on the ice at Little Rock, Mike Carey broke through, and, being thoroughly chilled, and died in ten minutes after being rescued.

Three men, named Filppin, Harrison and Markham, got into a quarrel at Pilot Point, Texas, while attending a New Year's ball, and Filppin was shot and instantly killed and Harrison mortally wounded by Markham.

As far as can at present be ascertained, about $4,000 have been paid by Philadelphia banks to parties presenting checks which had been abstracted from the mails in New York by the gang who were arrested in that city on Tuesday.

A Harrisburg special to the New York *Herald* says: Samuel S. Bigler, late President of the City Bank of Harrisburg, which suspended several months ago, and his two sons—one the ex-cashier—have been arrested on charges of conspiracy to defraud, of embezzlement and of obtaining money under false pretenses. The bank failed with liabilities aggregating $350,000, while the assets will not reach more than $70,000. Over one thousand four hundred persons, most of them of this city, have had deposits in the institution, of which they will realize probably ten or fifteen cents on the dollar.

The Montreal Express train on the Grand Trunk Railroad, due at Portland, Me., at noon yesterday, was thrown from the track near Gilead, ninety miles from there, by the engine striking a heavy snow-bank. The entire train, consisting of an engine, baggage, express, smoking car and one passenger car, went over an embankment fifteen feet high. N. B. Lotchell, fireman, is believed to be fatally injured; James Doyle, engineer, Frank Ross, baggage master, R. E. Larrabee, brakeman, and Mr. Small, agent of the Canadian Express Company, are all more or less hurt. The passengers were terribly shaken up, but none are reported seriously injured. Assistance was telegraphed for and trains have gone thither. The passengers and wounded were expected at Portland last night.

On Wednesday night a sleighing party from Astoria approached the Hunters Point ferry to Thirty-fourth street, New York. The large sleigh was drawn by two horses, and contained, beside the driver, three ladies and three gentlemen. From some cause the gate of the ferry was open, though the boat had left the slip. The speed at which the horses were going and the slippery descent to the bridge rendered it impossible to stop the team, and horses, sleigh, men and women were precipitated into the water. All but one of the party were rescued. The missing man is William Fearens, of Astoria. One lady had her arm broken. The horses went under the ice and were lost.

A St. Louis dispatch says: The dead body of Charles Bielefeld, a member of the mounted police, was found about daylight this morning on the track of the St. Louis, Kansas City and Northern Railway, near the crossing of the Manchester turnpike, seven miles from the center of the city. The body was cut and mangled beyond recognition, and was identified only by the clothing and the policeman's star he wore. Another policeman named Purcell was very badly beaten, having several ribs broken and otherwise seriously injured. The death of Bielefeld is shrouded in mystery, and the police authorities are very reticent regarding the matter. The theory is that he was murdered and his body placed on the track to conceal the deed. Numerous highway robberies have been committed during the past two or three weeks in the western and northwestern suburbs, and Bielefeld and Purcell, disguised as farmers, have been endeavoring to ferret out the robbers. The supposition is that the robbers killed Bielefeld and beat Purcell. It is expected that the facts in the case will be brought out at the Coroner's inquest.

TELEGRAPHIC PERSONALS.

A largely attended reception was given last night to Chief Justice Waite, at the residence of William M. Evarts, in New York. The legal profession was largely represented, numbers of prominent members of the bench and bar being present.

The installation of Rev. A. MacFarlane, recently of Port Huron, Mich., as pastor of the Hanson Place Baptist church, Brooklyn, took place last evening, in the presence of an immense congregation. Rev. Drs. Armitage, Searles, Lawson, Reed and other prominent Baptist divines took part in the ceremonies. Rev. Dr. Henson, of Philadelphia, delivered the sermon.

On receipt of the news of Commodore Vanderbilt's death, the Chancellor of Vanderbilt University at Nashville sent the information to all the professors, who were at the time in the midst of their lectures. Immediately the classes were dismissed, and the bell tolled as the students slowly defiled from the building. The faculty were called together and resolutions passed in honor of the memory of the founder of the university. Exercises are suspended for the rest of the week. The chapel is draped in mourning, and Bishop McTyre is requested to deliver a funeral discourse in the university next Sunday. Suitable arrangements are making for impressive services.

Hon. James G. Blaine was nominated in the Republican legislative caucus of Maine last evening for the short term in the United States Senate, and also for the full term of six years beginning March 4, 1877. Both nominations were made by acclamation, amid a great display of enthusiasm, every one of the 140 members present rising when the question was submitted. This is the first time a candidate for Senator in Maine was ever nominated by acclamation at his first election, and this exceptional method was selected as a special and emphatic compliment to Mr. Blaine. His name was presented to the caucus by General Hyde, President of the Senate, seconded by Mr. Neally, Speaker of the House, and several eulogistic speeches were made in addition by leading members of both branches of the Legislature.

VORACIOUS INSECTS.

WHAT BUGS COST THE COUNTRY.

Annual Destruction of Cereals, Fruits, Etc., Estimated at $200,000,000—The Locust, the Chinch Bug and the Army Worm—Interesting Statement from the Report of Dr. Hayden.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 4, 1877.

During the past summer the Governors and entomologists of many of the Western States held a convention at Omaha on the subject of the fearful and growing ravages of insect life upon the crops. It was then decided that the subject was one necessitating national legislation, and that a memorial should be submitted to Congress asking the appointment of a commission to examine into the history, nature and habits of the insects, and to suggest such means of destroying them and remedies against their ravages as their investigations should prove most practicable. This memorial, signed by the Governors of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and Dakota, and several State entomologists, was submitted to Congress yesterday. In this connection may be given the following observations concerning the probable causes of the migrations of the Western locust, contained in the forthcoming report upon this and other injurious insects, of Dr. F. V. Hayden, in charge of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories:

"In dealing with this fearfully destructive insect, which has engaged so much attention from the public, and in seeking for remedies against its devastations, it is of prime importance to have a thorough knowledge of its breeding places, the frequencies and extent of its migrations, and to seek for the connection between the direction of the winds and other meteorological phenomena and the flight of the locust. * * * It is well known that in the Eastern States the summers of 1858 and 1874, preceding the appearance of the army worm, were unusually warm and dry, and favorable not only for the hatching of the eggs laid the year previous, but for the growth and development of the larva or young. Look now at the conditions for the development of locust life on the hot and dry plains, chiefly of Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. We have meteorological records from these regions at hand, but it is more that probable that the years preceding the appearance of the locusts were exceptionally warm and dry, when the soil was parched with long sustained droughts; as we know that the corresponding species east of the Mississippi river abounds during dry summers following dry and warm springs. * * * * The year previous having perhaps been warm and dry, the locusts would abound and more eggs than usual be laid. These would, with remarkably few exceptions, hatch, and the young soon consume the scanty supply of herbage, and move about from one region to another, following often a determinate course in search of food. In this way large broods may migrate a long distance, from, perhaps, twenty to fifty miles. In about six or seven weeks they acquire wings. Experience shows that the Western locust, as soon as it is fledged, rises up high in the air, sometimes a thousand feet or much higher. They have been seen to settle at night on the ground, eat during this time, and towards noon of the next day fill the air again with their glittering wings. As more and more become fledged, the swarm exhausts the supply of food, and when the hosts are finally marshaled, new swarms joining perhaps the original one, the whole swarm moves off in columns of miles in extent, begins to fly off, borne by the prevailing westerly and northwesterly winds, in a general easterly and southeasterly course.

"The fact that in their migrations the locusts seem to often select cultivated tracts, rapidly cross the treeless, barren plains, and linger and die on the warm and western edge of the fertile valleys of the Missouri and Mississippi, indicates that the impelling force is due primarily to the want of food, and the prevailing force the direction of the prevailing winds, for they have no leaders, and we do not believe in a migratory instinct. It has been sufficiently shown that a swarm of locusts observed by Professor Robinson, near the entrance to Boulder Canon, Colorado, traveled a distance of about seven hundred miles to Eastern Kansas and Missouri. Though the swarm was first observed at some distance north of Denver, Colorado, it was then on its way from the north. It may have come from some part of Wyoming, two or three hundred miles northeastward or northward. Though the winds may vary and counter currents exist, the strongest gusts from due north, such as often sweep over the plains, and local southerly breezes may retard their flight, the course is either eastward or southeasterly. We know enough of the winds in the Western States and Territories to lay down the law that the general direction of the winds in July or August along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains and on the plains is from the west and northwest, and accords with the eastward course of the locust swarms. On the Pacific slope in the United States, in Colorado or in the Territories of Wyoming, Montana and Utah, where the losses by the ravages of the locust cannot be easily made up by importations from contiguous Territories, it seems the most practicable mode to provide in years of plenty against years of want. We should initiate, on a grand scale, the usages of the ancient Egyptians under Pharoah. * * *

"It is not only of great scientific interest but of high practical importance to collect all facts bearing on the migrations of locusts, in order to know where the locusts go on their return migration the second year, as we only know that they do fly a certain distance north and westward. We want to ascertain the extreme western limits of this return migration. We also want to learn whether they return to their original breeding places on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, or whether the westerly course of the winds, if it be westerly, drives them back and scatters them so that they cannot breed extensively. * * *

"Let us for a moment look at the losses sustained in the United States from the attacks of insects. The annual agricultural products of this country, by the last census, amounted in value to $2,500,000,000. Of this amount we in all probability annually lose over $200,000,000 from the attacks of injurious insects alone. Dr. Riley avers that the losses in Missouri alone—and it will be remembered that only the western third was invaded—exceeded $15,000,000. This would make the losses in other parts of the West at least twice as much more. The estimated loss occasioned by the chinch bug in Illinois in 1864 was over $75,000,000; in Missouri in 1874 it is estimated by Dr. Riley to be $19,000,000. The annual losses of the chinch bug are greater, Mr. Riley says, than from any other insect. The average annual loss to the cotton crop from the attack of the cotton army worm alone is estimated at $60,000,000. The total losses in Texas occasioned by the attack of about a thousand other species of insects which affect our cereals, forage and field crops, fruit trees and shrubs, garden vegetables and shade and ornamental trees, as well as our hard and pine forests and stored fruits, and it will not be thought an exaggeration to put our annual losses at $200,000,000. If the people of this country would only look at this annual depletion, this absolute waste, which drags her backward in the race with the countries of the Old World, they might see the necessity of taking effectual preventative measures in restraining the ravages of insects. With care and forethought based on the observances of facts by scientific men, he believes that from $50,000,000 to $100,000,000—or from a quarter to one-half of this annual waste—could be saved to the country. And the practical and efficient way is for the States to co-operate with the General Government in the appointment of salaried entomologists, and of a United States Commission of entomologists, who should combine the results of the State officials and issue weekly or, if necessary, daily bulletins as to the conditions of the insect world, forewarn farmers, and gardeners from week to week as to what crops should be guarded, and what preventive and remedial measures should be stated."

FIRE RECORD.

Advices from Lykens, Pa., state that the fire in the Lykens Valley mines is still raging.

The residence of Mrs. J. B. Taylor, in Cairo, Ill., was burned on Wednesday night. Loss $5,500; insurance $1,250.

Lamb, Byng & Co.'s large saw mill, in Clinton, Iowa, was burned yesterday morning. Loss $40,000; uninsured.

A Special from Sherman, Texas, says: "A fire yesterday morning at Bonhour, burned twelve business houses. Loss about $100,000; partially insured."

A fire in Corning, New York, yesterday morning, burned the Erie Railroad depot, three stores on Market street and five stores on Pine street. Loss $100,000.

A Suit Against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company—Heavy Damages Claimed on Account of Freight Discrimination.

CLEVELAND, January 4.—Louis A. & Charles L. Crawford, successors to L. Crawford & Son, coal dealers in this city, yesterday filed a petition in the Common Pleas Court, claiming damages of $164,108 46 against the Pennsylvania Railroad Company on account of discriminations in the rates of freight unfavorable to the plaintiffs.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Outrages on Americans in Mexico.

No Present Prospect of Redress.

Disappointment of the Democratic Committees

Sent to South Carolina and Florida.

Grover, of Oregon, Listens to Wright's Speech.

No Light on the Presidential Muddle.

Growing Feeling in Favor of a New Election.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 4, 1877.

Outrages on Americans in Mexico.

Official information received here shows that the reported outrages committed on American citizens resident in Mexico, especially in the vicinity of Matamoras, are in the main correct. The United States steamer Rio Bravo, with several armed steam launches, are now patrolling the Rio Grande, and a considerable force of United States troops are also patrolling the country along the river above and below Laredo. The class of outrages lately complained of are, however, committed on Mexican soil, and therefore out of reach of the naval and military force. The President, in speaking on this subject, says in consequence of the unsettled condition of Mexico, and apparently there being no regularly organized government to administer the affairs of the country, that the question of indemnity and redress is a difficult one to deal with. He seems to think that the disposition of those who are at the head of affairs would not be unfavorable to making ample redress, and to put a stop to these arbitrary proceedings, but their ability to execute them under the present status of affairs is doubtful. He said that these troubles on the Mexican borders were almost coincident with our earliest intercourse with the Mexican Government, and much of our diplomatic correspondence has been on the subject of claims growing out of depredations along the border. He believed that these depredations are incited by lawless persons who have forfeited their claims to magnanimity by their useless acts of rapine and murder. From this expression it was inferred that the main point was the protection of the lives and property of American citizens, and that if the sum be small the matter can be brought about by further discussion.

A MANIFESTO FROM THE PORTE.

VIENNA, January 4.—A special to the *Politische Correspondence*, dated Constantinople, January 3, says: It is alleged that the Porte intends to address a manifesto to Europe. The manifesto will probably take the form of a protest. The plenipotentiaries, however, are endeavoring to dissuade the Porte from giving it that shape.

The Russian Imperial yacht Hericlik has arrived at Constantinople.

GRANT CREATES A SENSATION.

Quite a sensation was created in this city to-night by knowledge of the fact that the President to-day, through the Attorney General, addressed a letter to the Board of Police Commissioners, requesting the immediate resignation of its members. No reasons were assigned for the demand. Recently very serious charges have been printed in this city, asserting collusion on the part of the police authorities with the gambling fraternity, by which the latter have been enabled to pursue their avocations without molestation, and the result has been an investigation of the subject, which, though not yet concluded, has been, it is intimated, sufficient to impress the President and Attorney General with the belief that a reorganization of the board is necessary. The board as at present composed consists of Messrs. William G. Murtagh, President; C. H. Nichols, Vice President; Hugh Campbell, Treasurer; James G. Berrett and William H. Smith, colored.

THE VERY LATEST.

LONDON, January 5.—A telegram dated Constantinople, Thursday noon, and dispatched before the meeting of the conference, says: The Porte, at to-day's sitting, will base its reasons for the rejection of the proposals of the Powers upon the integrity and independence of the Empire. Among the proposals objected to as in violation of these principles is the nomination of Governors of provinces by foreign ambassadors. If the plenipotentiaries present an ultimatum, the Porte intends to summon a meeting of the Ottoman Council and lay before it a statement of the position of affairs. The Porte categorically refuses to cede territory to Montenegro or Servia.

The *Standard's* Belgrade dispatch reports that nine hundred Russian volunteers are about to return to Russia, unwilling any longer to fight under the Servian banner. Prince Nikitine has just received orders from St. Petersburg to remain in Belgrade to advise the Servian Government in military affairs. Prince Milan wishes to withdraw from Russian influence.

The *Standard's* correspondent at Vienna says that the military authorities of Galicia and Transylvania have received orders to bring their armaments and accouterments to the full complement as soon as possible.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs that the Russian Government has ordered the preparation of one hundred and fifty railway carriages for the exportation of sick and wounded. The severity of the financial crisis in Russia is shown by the fact that the municipality of Odessa, one of the richest in the empire, is unable to pay the salaries of its officials.

The *Times'* special from Vienna says: On Tuesday the European plenipotentiaries held a confidential meeting, when modifications in their demands were adopted, in the hope that the Turkish plenipotentiaries would accept the amended proposals as a basis for discussions. The propositions for an International and foreign gendarmerie were somewhat modified. Those for fixing the boundaries of two separate Governorships in Bulgaria and allowing the Turks only to occupy certain garrisons, were dropped. The Turks are considering Lellie Zwornik to Servia is to be referred to arbitration. Other minor alterations were agreed to. It seems these modifications are the result of an interview between Lord Salisbury and Midhat Pasha.

A Pera dispatch to the *Daily Telegraph* says: At the conference to-day the Turks declared that they could not discuss proposals for gendarmerie and an international commission, because they believed that such organizations would impair the independence of the Empire. The European plenipotentiaries argued that Turkey had already, when she accepted Count Andrassy's note, acknowledged the principle which was now embodied in the suggestion for a commission. The Turks rejoined that the Andrassy note had no reference to Bulgaria. The discussions throughout the sitting was almost like an amicable conversation.

The *Daily News'* dispatch from Berlin says: For two days the entire diplomatic corps in Constantinople have been preparing to leave the city.

The Vienna correspondent of the *News* reports that according to diplomatic advices received in Vienna, the European plenipotentiaries have agreed that if the Porte continues obstinate, to sign a protocol throwing all the consequences upon Turkey. It is stated that Salisbury and Ignatieff have been trying to induce the Sultan to dismiss Midhat Pasha as the chief cause of the Porte's resistance, and the Sultan refuses to do so.

A dispatch to the *Times*, telegraphed from Vienna before the meeting of the conference on Thursday, says: Everything seems to indicate that the Turks have taken a desperate resolution. The only chance now lies in a change of Cabinet—above all, the resignation of Midhat Pasha. In the event of the failure of the conference, the European Powers seem as yet only agreed to recall their representatives. It is doubtful whether they would break off all intercourse with the Porte, although Russia would certainly do so.

A Pera dispatch to the *Daily Telegraph* reports that Admiral Hobart Pasha and Colonel Valentine Baker have started to inspect the Gulf of Boorghas, which would form a second line of defense should the Russians force the Balkans. The Turkish official journals are very warlike.

The *Standard's* Vienna dispatch announces that the Grand Duke Nicholas has completely recovered from his illness.

Spain.

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES CONCLUDED.

LONDON, January 4.—A dispatch from Madrid announces that an extradition treaty between Spain and the United States has been concluded, and will be signed to-morrow. The treaty specifies twenty-six offenses for which persons accused may be surrendered, and is the most comprehensive which has yet been entered into by the United States.

FOREIGN NOTES.

A Bombay dispatch contains the following: The Shanghai *Courier* states that the Spanish Minister has broken off relations with the Chinese Government, and a Spanish fleet has been ordered to China. The cause of the rupture is not positively known. Some say the difficulty has grown out of unsettled claims, and others that it is connected with the Cuban coolie question.

Henri Monnier, artist and author, died in Parison Wednesday.

Reuter's Madrid telegram states that the Spanish Congress has passed the bill re-establishing constitutional guarantees.

THE RAILROAD HORROR.

Continuation of the Coroner's Inquest—Testimony of Ashtabula Firemen—Why Water Was Not Thrown on the Burning Wreck—A Blunder Somewhere Amounting Almost to a Crime.

CLEVELAND, January 4.—An Ashtabula special to the *Leader* gives the following account of the inquest proceedings of the Coroner's jury, commenced at nine o'clock this morning: E. W. Lockwood was the first witness: Was at the pump house near the depot at the time of the accident; James Manning, engineer at the pump house, had just been telling him what a good engine he had; that they had facilities for attaching fire hose in three or four places; did not say anything about attaching the village fire hose at the pump house; he left the pump hose at 6:30 o'clock to go home; on his way met train No.5, which seemed to be all right; did not hear the crash as the bridge went down, as the night was stormy, but saw the light of the burning wreck immediately; did not go back till next morning when he examined the track and ties carefully, but saw no indications that the train having jumped the track; there was no snow on the bridge when he passed over it.

The next witness was George Brake; resides in Ashtabula; hired an alarm of fire on the night of the accident; being foreman of the Protection Company, he hastened to the engine house; the team usually employed could not be obtained; some delay was experienced in getting started; was three-quarters of an hour before all arrived at the railroad crossing; asked why the engine already there was not at work; was told by Mr. Strong there was no use, as water could do no good; still made endeavors to get the engine into operation; asked Mr. Culver if we should take the engine down upon the track; he answered he had no authority in the matter; I examined and found no drag ropes or anything else to get the steamer down with; finally abandoned the idea; neither the foreman of the train nor any one else had influence in my action; thought then as now that the fire could have been checked better by the engines than by the use of buckets; never had an order from the chief engineer not to set the engine; some twenty or thirty buckets were being used in throwing water; Mayor Hepburn gave him no orders.

A. Hitchcock sworn: Is foreman of the steamer Neptune; have been connected with the fire department nineteen years; met Mr. Strong before reaching the scene of the accident, and asked him if the fire department was needed; Mr. S. replied, "I don't think we need any water;" I then told the driver he had better not try to take the engine down, as the snow was deep; met Mr. Culver and Mr. Strong, who didn't want water on the fire; hadn't seen Chief Knapp or fireman Brake up to that time; he met Mr. Strong, and said, "is there any need of water being thrown?" he replied that he thought water was of no use; this was his only reason for not throwing water; it is my opinion is that by using water as soon as it might have been asked, no lives would have been saved; the steamer was ready for use as soon after as it was on the ground, and if it had then been used thinks the fire could have been extinguished and more bodies identified; he would have proceeded to throw water on the fire had it not been for the order for Mr. Strong.

The next witness was Captain George Fields; resides in Ashtabula; testified to the correctness of the conversation between Hitchcock and William Strong, which he overheard.

Four watches were found in the wreck to-day, three of them so badly burned that they were mere masses of gold. The other watch was marked in the inside case "Willie R. Bradley," and has been forwarded to Mrs. Bradley in San Francisco.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Indications for To Day.—Falling barometer, southwest to southeast winds, warmer, partly cloudy weather, possibly succeeded by rain areas.

The next Ohio State fair is to be held in Columbus, beginning September 10th.

The grand total of internal revenue receipts for the six months ending December 30, 1876, was $57,985,605.

Fifty of the recently discharged employees of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, at Washington, have been replaced.

A public meeting of citizens will be held in Memphis on Saturday, to take action upon the yellow fever quarantine.

The Ohio State Board of Agriculture organized yesterday by electing J. B. Johnson, of Cadiz, President; John Pugh, of Columbus, Treasurer, and John H. Klippart, of Columbus, Corresponding Secretary.

It is understood in New Orleans that the military authorities have orders to transfer three million pounds of ordnance and ordnance stores from the Newport News to New York, including 400 barrels of powder, guns, shot, shell, etc.

In Columbus, O., yesterday, a State Association of Swine Breeders was organized, and the following officers elected: J. M. Milliken, of Hamilton, President: S. J. Todd, of Makenum, Vice President; M. J. Lawrence, of Cleveland, Secretary.

Over one hundred prisoners at the penitentiary in Columbus, Ohio, are sick with symptoms suggesting poison. An investigation as to the cause of the trouble has developed nothing, except a surmise that the sickness was caused by eating bread made from a certain kind of baking powder which had been in use for some time. None of the cases are thought to be serious.

In the litigation instituted by the Centennial Board of Finance to obtain a judicial decree of the manner in which the fund remaining in their hands shall be distributed, Mr. Eyster, Assistant Treasurer of the United States and Philadelphia, filed yesterday, through District Attorney Valentine, his answer, claiming for the Government payment in full of the sum of $1,500,000 before any disposition is made to the stockholders.

The fourth annual convention of the Inter-Collegiate Literary Association was held in New York yesterday. The Treasurer's report showed receipts of $2,500, with expenditures under that sum. The meeting of the presidents of the various colleges was also held at the same place, and Dr. McCosh read a paper reviewing the history of the association, commending the manner in which it was conducted and foreshadowing for it a brilliant and prominent future. John Colleges were represented in the contest in oration. The first prize was awarded to Frank Foster Laird, of Hamilton College, and the second to Samuel Douglas Ingraham, of Princeton College. Mr. Wilson Mann Duroe, a representative of the University of New York, was cordially applauded by the audience, as was also Frank H. Scott, of the Northwestern University.

☞ *Advertisements on this page, under the several heads of* WANTED, FOR SALE, FOR RENT, *&c., will be inserted at transient rates only*—TEN CENTS *per line for each insertion. No advertisement less than* FIFTY CENTS.

WANTS.

WANTED—REAL ESTATE AGENTS—To co-operate in sale of lands. Address J. H. BRISTOW, Martinsburg, W. Va.

WANTED—EVERYBODY TO USE Abel's Vermin Exterminator. It has no equal for banishing Rats, Mice and Roaches. Sold by all druggists.

WANTED—SITUATION—BY A YOUNG man 19 years of age; is a coach painter by trade, but is willing to engage in any other honorable employment. Address W. H. B., Commercial Office.

WANTED—TO BOAT OWNERS—TO PURchase a VESSEL suitable for transferring railroad cars across the Ohio river. Address A, care of P. J. Keegan & Co., Portland, O., stating price, terms, &c.

WANTED—TO SELL OR EXCHANGE—For Pittsburgh property, a House in Philadelphia, with all modern improvements. Terms liberal. Address J. E. MITCHELL, 245 Pine street, Philadelphia.

WANTED—A SITUATION—HAVE HAD considerable experience as clerk, &c., in several branches of business, and can produce first-class references. Moderate salary will be satisfactory. Address "F," Lock Box 538, city.

WANTED—TO SELL—BETWEEN THIS date and March 1, Good Will, Stock and Fixtures of a Country Store, doing general merchandise business. No opposition. Business about $12 000 per year. Will be sold on easy terms, if good security is given. Address R. OLNEY, Struthers, Mahoning county, Ohio.

WANTED—EMPLOYMENT—A RESPONsible person, of considerable real and personal property, being now idle, would like some suit

The Commercial.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1877.

"A fool and his money are soon parted." A number of Democrats at Washington have been idiotic enough to engage a building and make preparations for an "imposing" TILDEN inauguration ball.

A CORRESPONDENT inquires: "Why is it that so many of the Democratic leaders, the moment they get into prominence, make fools of themselves?" We cannot tell; unless it be for the reason that opportunity from without leagues with instinct from within.

SENATOR CONKLIN'S acceptance of the place on the joint committee of the Senate for counting the Presidential vote ought to put at rest the foolish rumor that he was originally tendered the place and refused it. The story is deliberately intended to affect his standing as a Republican.

THE Washington *Star* learns that ex-Governor TILDEN is about to take up his residence in Washington. This, it is said, is in accordance with a recommendation to that effect by Democratic Senators and Representatives. After the inauguration of HAYES, however, he will probably resume his law business in New York city.

THE Democratic leaders at Washington are greatly dismayed over the recognition of Governor KELLOGG as the Executive of Louisiana by the bogus Democratic Legislature of that State. And, really, this recognition is a very peculiar commentary upon the attempt to have the electoral vote for TILDEN counted, the certificates of which are signed by MCENERY.

WADE HAMPTON is just now undergoing sharp criticism from the Northern Democrats. It is openly charged that he has sold TILDEN out to secure a political advantage for himself, and some who lately looked upon him as an oracle for the party to look up to, now denounce him a political trickster whose especial forte is duplicity and double dealing. The *Post*, however, still paints him in azure colors.

BUSINESS is a far better barometer than the blustering politicians. It foresees that the Presidential complication will be peaceably ended by the inauguration of President-elect HAYES, and hence is beginning to make arrangements for a brisk and prosperous season. In the principal trade centers business is slowly but steadily improving, merchants and tradesmen feel much better, and the demand for money shows increasing commercial and industrial activity.

THAT is not altogether a bad idea of the President's, that the remainder of the overplus upon the Geneva award, after reimbursing the insurance companies, should, instead of being refunded to Great Britain, be invested in United States securities as a fund to encourage American shipbuilding with a view to the restoration of American commerce to the position which it lost through the depredations of cruisers fitted out in British ports.

CAUSE and effect: The quarterly report of the exports to the United States of British and Irish goods for the three months ending November 30, exhibits a striking reduction in the quantities of cotton piece goods, haberdashery, hardware and cutlery, all forms of iron and steel, linen piece goods, ribbons, woolen cloths, worsted stuffs and carpets; and it is in these articles that American industry has, under the protective policy, made its most remarkable progress and development.

NOW that it is no longer disputed that HAYES carried the electoral vote of South Carolina and Florida on the face of the returns, and as the vote was actually cast, the ire of the Democracy waxes hot towards the Returning Board of Louisiana. No one, however, can dispute the power of that board under the law to give the State to HAYES just as they did, and the wisdom and justice of their decision are equally clear when we consider the fraud, violence and intimidation practiced by Democrats towards Republicans throughout the State.

THE large purchase of bullion by the Director of the Mint last year, to put into execution the Subsidiary Silver Coinage act, is assigned as the principal cause of the scarcity of silver. In order to issue the $50,000,000 of silver required by that act it is ascertained that the Director of the Mint, before the recent advance in the price of silver, purchased enough silver bullion in Europe and in this country to supply all demands of the mints for the current year. The highest price paid by Dr. LINDERMAN did not exceed fifty pence per ounce. The amount purchased by the United States Mint and then withdrawn is said to be equal to almost the entire bullion product of the Pacific coast for a whole year.

THE famous Manhattan Club of New York city has gone into bankruptcy. The Manhattan was the last attempt to keep up a respectable element in the Democratic party, there. Respectability of talent, of personal appearance and of culture is as rare in that community as fresh water in the Atlantic, which is only there when carried thither. The experiment of a Democratic literary periodical was attempted, but soon failed. The club was also started in order to furnish a spot where Democracy and respectability could unite, but it has also failed. "Five Points" Democracy will flourish, however, while the decent element dies out. The Manhattan witnessed some exciting scenes during the TILDEN canvass; but in the defeat of the Democratic candidate it found its death.

THE Philadelphia *North American* well says that it is the export trade which affords the true key to prosperity and increase of industrial enterprise, and that all the capital required for the extension of the business should be promptly furnished, for the reason that there is a superabundance of unemployed capital in all the moneyed centers, and that no other investment is likely to pay as well as this. The *American* predicts that by the time the census of 1880 comes to be taken this great problem will be solved: American industry will have triumphed completely in the home markets, and foreign competition will have been abandoned as hopeless. This, however, imperatively demands that Congress should let things alone and not seek to give a fresh impetus to the import trade by a reduction of the tariff to a low scale.

THE election over, and no further capital to be made by buncombe statements about the reduction of the national debt, it immediately obeys the logic of Republican financial skill and increases. The report for December shows an increase of three and a half millions.—*Post.*

If the *Post* knows anything at all, it knows well enough that the unfavorable showing is entirely owing to the falling off in receipts. As compared with December, 1875, the customs receipts for the last month show a falling off of nearly two and a half million dollars. A large falling off is also shown from internal revenue receipts. When the receipts of the last six months are compared with the six months ending December 31, 1875, the extent of the falling off in receipts can be better realized. For the last six months of 1875 the customs receipts were upward of seventy-six millions, while for the six months just ended they were but a little more than sixty-four millions, a decrease of twelve millions. Fairness and truthfulness do not, however, comport with the *Post's* ideas of Democratic journalism.

THERE was a heavy falling off in the canal commerce of Buffalo last year. Only 941,474 tons of property were shipped eastward by canal, against 1,219,538 tons in 1875, and 1,448,172 tons in 1874. There was a similar decline in the deliveries of property at that port. The number of tons received last year was 313,026; in 1875, 555,237, and in the preceding year, 526,-311. The heaviest loss in Western bound freight was in coal, iron and domestic salt, while grain and lumber shipments to the East showed the greatest decline. The exports of flour, reduced to grain, and grain last year were only 27,878,000 bushels; the year before they were 35,778,000; in 1874, 41,091,000, and in 1873, 50,992,000. This decline in the canal business is of course traceable to the competition of railroads. The Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania roads succeeded in diverting much grain from the water route, and the Buffalo *Advertiser* says the only way to arrest this decline and save the canal commerce is to reduce the tolls to the lowest possible point and enable boatmen to underbid the railways.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE POOR.

The Pittsburgh Association for the Improvement of the Poor has closed its first year's labors, and on the threshold of another year finds itself with many indigent persons under its care, and with an almost empty treasury. In former references to this association, we have stated that it is composed of a band of faithful and experienced women, aided by a large number of generous-hearted, philanthropic men, whose chief object is the improvement of the condition of the poor. In this work, as allotted and systematized, the first duty of the agent of the association is to ascertain the true character and condition of the applicant, by personal visitation and inquiry, so that no deception can be practiced by the undeserving and unprincipled. When it is found that the applicant is worthy, the next duty enjoined is to relieve the temporal wants as speedily as possible, and as fully as the means at hand will warrant. The next step is to look after the moral and religious wants of the individual or the family needing relief, and to bring every applicant, if possible, under the helpful and restraining influences of the gospel—to lead them to a better life morally as well as physically. The indiscriminate bestowal of alms, which follows wherever a ready ear is given to the professional begger, is one of the most serious defects in our systems of relief, and is doubly injurious—hurtful to the unworthy recipient, who abuses the bounty that he may gratify some depraved appetite; and hurtful to the deserving poor, who are too often harshly characterized as imposters. There is but one way by which this abuse can be corrected, and that is by rigid inquiry into the character of every applicant. This plan the association has adopted, after mature deliberation; and in order to carry it out effectually, visitors are employed under salary, to attend to certain districts, and are required to give their whole time to the work. Few, if any, impositions can be practised upon the society, under this arrangement; and the money thus saved will more than balance the salaries paid to the visitors. Another good effect is, that by denying aid to the professional mendicant, this class is, in a large measure, driven out of the community, rather than encouraged in their idleness and duplicity. Those who contribute in aid of eleemosynary work, always do so with more or less misgiving that their contributions, in part at least, will fall into the hands of the unworthy; and this feeling doubtless checks the spirit of benevolence in some, and may prevent others from giving at all. When these things are duly considered, the importance of guarding against imposition, in the distribution of alms, becomes strikingly apparent. It can hardly be affirmed that the Pittsburgh Association have, in a single year, so systematized their work as to be proof against all the deceptions practiced by the class referred to, but it may be said with truth that they have gone a long way toward accomplishing that desirable end, and have reduced their losses from that cause to a mere trifle. The organization is compact and thorough, the women and men composing it are deserving of the highest measure of confidence, and their appeal for aid at this time should meet with a most hearty and liberal response. In the midst of a winter of unusual severity, with hundreds of deserving people out of work and almost destitute of food and clothing, they make their brief and simple appeal to those who can and ought to extend a helping hand. There never was a time, perhaps, in the history of this city, when greater opportunities for doing good to the suffering and the downcast, were presented to the charitable and benevolent. Hundreds of men, who have been degraded and impoverished through the use of intoxicating drinks, are now struggling to lift themselves up, and to feed and clothe their families. Many of these need material aid, as well as moral support and sympathy; and success may turn upon the generous deed, or the word fitly spoken.

Donations in clothing and provisions may be sent to the Central office, No. 100 Liberty street, and contributions in money will be received at the banking house of HOLMES & SONS, Market street. Coal is largely in demand, and no more acceptable donation can be made than an order for a few tons of that (at this time) necessary article.

SOME idea of the manner in which the iron and steel industries of this country have been developed under our system of protective duties may be gained from that part of the October report of the Bureau of Statistics, just issued, which relates to our imports of iron and steel, with their manufactures. The total value of these entered at our ports during October, 1875, was $1,437,418; during October, 1876, only $654,934, being $782,384 less, or but 45½ per cent. of the other value. This decrease, however, although considerably less than half within a single year, does not fully exhibit the steady progress of the decline nor its comprehensive proportions. The Chicago *Inter-Ocean* reproduces statistics showing that the imports in October, 1872, amounted to $6,376,582, of which sum the imports of like commodities in last October were no more than 10.27 per cent. Thus, within four years, the falling off in the importation of iron and steel, with their manufactures, has extended to 89.73 per cent., leaving a mere fraction of the once gigantic demand of this country for iron and steel products from foreign countries. The total value of dutiable articles entered at our ports during the first ten months of 1875, was $13,082,154; while for the relating period of last year they were $9,133,807, being $3,948,347 less, or 69.82 per cent. of the other value. During the same period in 1872, however, the imports of iron and steel products amounted to the immense total of $52,703,069, or to $43,-569,262 more than in 1876, the importation of the latter ten months having been only 17.32 per cent. of the former.

THE annual meeting of delegates from the governments which compose the Latin Monetary Union, which was to have been held this month, has been postponed until the end of the year. This union determines the maximum amount of silver which shall be issued in the countries comprising it during each year. The countries which at present belong to the union are Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy and Greece. It has been mutually agreed between them that the coinage of silver for 1877 shall be reduced to one-half the amount coined in 1876. The amount coined in the latter year was determined upon at the last annual meeting of the union, and amounted to $28,000,000. The amount to be coined this year, therefore, will be but $14,000,000, unless the union, before the end of the year, shall come to some different determination.

COMMODORE VANDERBILT, the railroad king, died yesterday after a protracted illness. Shrouds have no pockets.

Not long ago an Iowa dentist was visited by a very affable man, who wanted a tooth extracted, and he was dexterously accommodated, after which he entered into a dissertation with the dentist as to the manufacture of his wares and the material he used, the base of which the dentist pleased to inform him was vulcanite, the best thing known to the profession. A few days after he received a notice that he was defendant in a suit for damages by the Goodyear Rubber Company. The agent declares he will catch them if it takes every tooth in his head.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The weather is fine for the wheat crop and lumber interests.

And now the very little folk are to have their magazine, *Babyland*.

The sound of legislative grinding is everywhere heard in the land.

Deep snows in Texas, and stock-raisers fear heavy losses on the ranges.

Remember that one square meal is better than all the "Heaven pity the poor" poems ever written.

Tea-kettle Hewitt is wroth with Accomplished Letter-Writer Wade Hampton for invading his province.

Another large English steamship will soon take a cargo of munitions of war worth $2,000,000 from New Haven, Conn., to Turkey.

The great trunk lines have advanced their passenger rates. Now let an increase of safety to passengers accompany the extra tariff.

Spiritualism in England is getting to be looked upon very much as Democratic "reform" is in this country, and hence is at a very low ebb.

A large number of counterfeit silver half dollars are in circulation. They can easily be detected by a lightness in the weight below the genuine and by a greasy touch.

With the new year let all your old animosities die out. There is no more useless old lumber than a feud. The sooner you split it up and make firewood of it the better.

A beverage made from the leaf of the coffee shrub, instead of from the berry, has lately been introduced into Australia, and is said to be superior to ordinary coffee.

Central Iowa has been gleaned of fat hogs, and the young porkers are dying with disease by thousands. As a consequence, its next year's crop of hogs will be very light.

In six months, Paris eats 3,869 horses, 193 asses and fifteen mules, and Small-Talk, of the *Courier-Journal*, says some of the Parisians live on Americans. Somehow, he escaped.

The *Magazine of American History* is the latest venture in periodical literature. All persons of culture will easily recognize in this new magazine the supply of a long felt deficiency.

St. Louis last year received 69,123 packages of castor beans, and used over 40,000 packages herself. We don't know how many castor beans make a package, but we hope St. Louis feels better.

Government lands in Texas cost one dollar per acre, and whisky two dollars per bottle. How many men die landless who during their lives have swallowed whole townships—trees and all.

The recent sea gales extended over a wide area, and nearly all vessels arriving at Eastern ports bring accounts of their severity. It is feared that there will be an unusually large number of missing vessels.

A thorough examination and test of every railroad bridge on the road between New York and Buffalo is to be made at once. These bridges are all of iron. The wooden bridges were discarded after the New Hamburgh disaster in 1871.

The Jesuits expelled from Germany some months ago have taken refuge in India. A large number of them have joined the University at Bombay, and an additional college has already been founded there with six hundred students.

The Pennsylvania Railroad has a spring and fall inspection of every bridge on the road. The chief engineer visits them all himself, and descends into the structure, carefully inspecting every portion of the bridge, and every defect, where one exists, is at once thoroughly remedied.

The new copper mines of Newfoundland are reported to be developing immense wealth, the product for the year past being twenty thousand tons of ore, worth fifty dollars a ton at the smelting works in Wales. The English proprietors are said to have made a profit of $450,000.

The marine disasters to vessels belonging to or bound to or from American ports, during last year, numbered 449, the total value of the lost vessels, exclusive of their cargoes, being estimated at $7,890,000. This is an increase, compared with 1875, of seventy-six vessels and of $278,000 value.

An earnest call is made by the Toledo *Blade* for the man who investigated the muskrats' nests, and based thereon a prediction that this was to be a mild winter. It is thought he went South to see that the Returning Board did its duty, and will not be back until the June roses blow.

The Vienna bread made at the Centennial Exhibition tickled the American palate so successfully that bakeries for this variety of bread are being established in all the principal cities of the country. Minnesota wheat is preferred, as coming nearest to the Hungarian wheat in quality and flavor.

The trade of Baltimore for 1876 will probably aggregate about the same as for 1875. The figures for eleven months of 1876 are: Exports, $36,648,293, an increase of $11,968,158; imports, $16,216,509, a decrease of $11,626,315. One-half of the importation of that port is coffee, which has fallen off nearly five millions.

The remains of several historical personages who were beheaded in the Tower of London more than three hundred years ago have lately been unearthed, in making excavations. Those which were thoroughly identified are the skeletons of the Countess of Salisbury, Robert Dudley, the father of Lady Jane Grey, and the unhappy Anne Boleyn.

At any moment new discoveries of either gold or silver are liable to be made. Along the entire range of the Rocky Mountains, from Montana to New Mexico, among all their foothills, gorges, canons, valleys and the beds of their rivulets and among the fastnesses of the Sierras of Arizona are thousands of experienced, eager and persevering men hunting for "treasure signs." In the Black Hills, in Utah, in California, in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Mexico, Wyoming, Australia, Mexico, New Mexico and Chili there are myriads of keen-eyed, sharp-witted "prospectors" hunting, hunting, ever hunting for gold or silver. And they will find it too, in greater or less abundance, for years to come.

PERSONAL.

The men who were arrested some weeks since for an attempt to steal the remains of President Lincoln from their tomb are now on trial at Springfield, Illinois.

The keeper of a "first-class boarding-house" was recently detected in Philadelphia and brought to grief for imposing on the charitable. She had received aid from the Board of Guardians of the Poor and from the charity fund of one of the oldest churches for a period of thirty-eight years.

Henry Bergh, with his New York cruelty to animals society, makes a substantial showing for the year, having secured 872 convictions of human brutes; ordered out of the harness and got medical attention for 1,802 horses and mules; investigated 1,000 complaints from citizens, and put out of misery 2,264 animals.

The practical advantage of a college education was strikingly exemplified in the case of George W. Burns, of California, who recently was attacked by a bear, and though unarmed managed to kill the animal by kicking it to death. Mr. Burns was a graduate of Harvard and was noted as a proficient kicker at foot ball.

A new set of claimants has appeared to contest the will of A. T. Stewart. Their affidavits, in which cousinship is set forth, came straight from the hands of a notary at Ballyvarrickmoddy, in the county Antrim, Ireland, and are in the hands of a New York attorney. It is probable that suit will be brought at once to have the case re-opened.

The arrest of Condit, the New York "curbstone broker," for issuing a fraudulent telegram which announced the death of Commodore Vanderbilt, is a new feature in the chronicles of American crime. For this reason the case will be watched with deep interest. The only previous instance of a similar character in which an arrest took place was in the case of Joe Howard. The prosecution then, however, was an act of the Government, and merely an order for imprisonment. There was no indictment and no trial. Since then such deeds have been made penal by statute, and how follows the first indictment. Condit will suffer, and no doubt will be deserted in this time of need by those who reaped the highest benefit from his fraud.

A SEABOARD PIPE LINE.

Meeting of Oil Producers at St. Petersburg—Sensible Talk—A Project to Release the Producing Interest from the Clutches of the Standard Monopoly—Subscriptions to Stock for a Seaboard Pipe Line Opened.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PARKER CITY, January 3, 1876.

At length brighter prospects dawn upon the producing interest, and there is a more promising outlook than has been seen since the unfortunate collapse of the Pennsylvania Transportation Company, and the consequent arrest of the seaboard pipe line project.

Intelligent producers have long felt that, while the Standard Oil Company enjoyed the advantages of freight discriminations and had almost an absolute monopoly of the carrying trade, from the interest held by the managers of the railroad lines in the drawbacks, they could not possibly obtain fair prices for their staple. Hence the seaboard line project was regarded with the warmest favor by all producers, except those who were in the interest of the Standard, as the only means of bringing their commodity into an open market.

An effort was made recently in Oil City to bring about a combination among producers to pool their oil and hold it for higher prices, and at the same time to cooperate with the "refiners' combination" and share the exorbitant margin they are at present realizing, in consideration of their having the privilege of being the sole purchasers of the oil in the pool. The movement failed because the more intelligent producers saw at once that they would be simply conceding as a right to the monopoly what it held at present only by strategy and its advantage in the situation.

Yesterday a meeting of producers was held at the Opera House at St. Petersburg, and it has seldom been the good fortune of your correspondent to attend a meeting of the kind where so much sound good sense, earnestness and unanimity were manifest. Marcus Hulings, one of the most prominent producers in Clarion county, and one of its most enterprising capitalists, was elected President of the meeting. All present on the occasion were producers and represented the majority of the producing interest in the Clarion district.

The Chairman stated that the object of the meeting was to devise some means whereby the producers could relieve themselves and the trade in general from the trammels thrown around its legitimate operations by the Standard Oil Company which at present controlled all the avenues of transportation to the seaboard. He said that capitalists had made a proposition to the Atlantic Pipe Line to increase its capital stock to $600,000 and extend the line to Sharpsburg or somewhere in that vicinity, build iron tankage there of one hundred thousand barrels and erect and operate a refinery of a capacity of 10,000 barrels a week. They would furnish the right of way and guarantee its possession, would stipulate the transportation of the refined oil to Richmond or Alexandria at ninety cents a barrel freight, and have the whole work completed in ninety days. They would also give satisfactory bonds for the completion of the contract. Another offer had been made to extend the line to Buffalo. It was for the producers present to decide what action if any they would take.

Mr. Vanschaic offered a resolution that, in the opinion of this meeting, the Atlantic Pipe Line should be extended to tide water. He said that he had carefully studied the subject in all its bearings and was convinced that the only permanent relief for the producers from the encroachments of the Standard Oil Company and the railroads was some outlet to markets at the seaboard where other refiners could come into successful competition with the Standard. The Atlantic Pipe Line, owned by the producers, and started by themselves in order that no combination should control it, had added immense wealth to the producing interest in the reduction of the tariff on transportation by pipeage as well as increased prices for their oil. Before the Atlantic commenced operations producers had either to sell their oil to the pipe lines or shut down if their tankage was full, with no other means of reaching the seaboard the benefits resulting from the line were restricted.

At the present price of refined producers should be receiving five and six dollars for crude, and if the contemplated extension of the line were made to-morrow and the refinery built they would be realizing that price for their production. He urged the extension of the line and the building of the refinery.

Captain Jones said the Atlantic line must have an outlet. The Standard controlled most of the transportation, and although the Atlantic line had sold oil thirty days since they could not yet procure cars for its shipment.

When the Standard wants to sell ahead, its agents bull the market, as was the case last month when they sold refined at the seaboard for January delivery. But when it has sold its futures then it refuses to buy your oil only at a depressing price. Last season when we paid you $4 00 a barrel for your oil and they thought the Atlantic line was loaded up, that same night the Standard brought the price down to $3 70.

The extension of the line to Sharpsburg, tankage of 100,000 barrels and a refinery of a capacity of 10,000 barrels will solve at once this question of freight discriminations.

We went into the seaboard pipe line scheme with the Pennsylvania Transportation Company on sworn statements of liberal business and the fairest representations of their solvent condition. It was a mistake, but it was made in the interest of the producers and, although the money of the Atlantic Pipe Line was obtained under false representations, we will have it back next term of court, or somebody will go to jail.

The Standard, by its drawback of $1 25 a barrel, bankrupted other refiners by placing refined on the market at less than its cost, and still realized a large margin on the drawback. Let us extend the line and relieve ourselves from its illegal exactions.

Mr. W. B. Finley made some very well timed remarks, sustaining the proposed action, as also did Mr. Bartlett.

The Chairman, on putting the resolution, said he hoped all present would vote so that their sentiments could not be misunderstood. The resolution was carried unanimously.

Books were opened for subscription to stock, but the vote of the stockholders for increasing the capital stock cannot be taken until the regular time has elapsed required by the charter.

This action of the Clarion producers is a happy omen of the future of the oil trade, as the opening event of the new year.

DOT.

S. M. Pettengill & Co.,
Advertising Agents,
37 Park Row, New York,
Desire to Call the Attention of Business Men, who wish to reach the Reading Public, to the following
FACTS:
1. They have been in the Advertising business for nearly thirty years, and given it constant attention and study during that time.
2. They have had, and continue to have, cordial business relations with all the newspapers and other periodicals in the United States and Canada.
3. Their record with all these publications is one of fair treatment, honorable dealing and prompt settlements.
4. In consequence of this, they can always have advertisements inserted at the publisher's *lowest rates*.
5. They are so acquainted with the entire press of the country that they can select the *best mediums* for any given purpose.
6. Having done advertising for all kinds of business, and noted the results to their customers, they can give valuable suggestions as to the *size, style and position* which will make the most effective advertisement for the object to be attained.
7. Having frequent orders for a large number of papers, they can, in most cases, get the work done for *less cost* than the advertiser would have to pay if he sent the order direct.
8. They examine all papers, note all omissions or irregularities, secure the strict fulfillment of every stipulation of the order, and submit full files for the inspection of the advertiser.
9. They give the advertiser the full benefit of the facilities and of the supervision *without charge*, a commissions being paid by the publishers.
10. They submit estimates for any given list of papers, or for properly covering any given district.
11. For a systematic working up of any large enterprise, they assist in the preparation of circulars, pamphlets and general reading matter, in addition to newspaper advertising.
They invite a call from any parties who contemplate advertising in any way or for any amount.
S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park Row, New York.
701 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
Centennial Grounds, Philadelphia.
10 State Street, Boston.

NATIONAL INSURANCE CO.,
43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.
W. W. MARTIN.....President.
JAM TEVENSON.....Secreta }

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.
CHARTERED IN 1862.
BOARD OF MANAGERS.—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents; A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Hahn, G. Follansbee, Robert C. Schmertz.
Chas. G. Milnor, Secretary and Treasurer.
SOLICITOR—John H. Bailey.

BANK STATEMENTS.

ANNUAL STATEMENT
OF THE
GERMANIA SAVINGS BANK,
JANUARY 1, 1877.

ASSETS.

First Bond and Mortgages	$536,349 39
Bills receivable	24,631 21
Real Estate and Bank Building	169,038 66
Other Real Estate	24,885 86
United States Bonds	80,000 00
Bank Stocks	5,900 00
Cash on hand and in other banks	47,440 54
Rents due January 1, 1877	3,073 29
	$841,067 16

LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock paid up		$150,000 00
Due Depositors	$666,229 34	
Interest due Depositors	16,013 87	
		682,237 21
Earnings		8,769 95
		$841,007 16

C. M. SEIBERT,
Secretary and Treasurer.

We, the undersigned, Auditing Committee, do hereby certify that we have examined the Mortgages, Government Bonds, the books of the bank and counted the money, and find the above statement to be correct.

C. BARCHFELD,
J. LUDEWIG KOETHEN,
A. KLEBER,
A. GROETZINGER.

DISSOLUTION.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP—THE partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned at Pittsburgh, Pa., under the names of E. W. McCLURE & CO. and McCLURE & CO., is this day dissolved by mutual consent, E. W. McCLURE retiring from the business, which will continue to be carried on by G. T. RAFFERTY, under the name of McCLURE & CO. The claims and accounts due by or to the late firm will be settled at No. 14 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, Pa., by G. T. RAFFERTY.
E. W. McCLURE.
G. T. RAFFERTY.

In retiring from the coke business, the undersigned asks for his succeeding partner the continuance of the patronage and favor which the late firm has enjoyed.
E. W. McCLURE.
Pittsburgh, Pa., January 1, 1877.

THE PARTNERSHIP HERETOFORE EXisting between D. B. MORRIS and R. M. MORRIS, under the firm name of
D. B. MORRIS & SON,
in this city, is this day dissolved by mutual consent.
D. B. MORRIS,
R. M. MORRIS.
Pittsburgh, December 30, 1876.

ALL GOODS
AT
Greatly Reduced Prices,
TO SUIT THE TIMES.

HOLIDAY GIFTS!
FINE PRESENTATION BOOKS,
FINE EDITIONS STANDARD AUTHORS,
BOOKS for CHILDREN,
FAMILY AND POCKET
BIBLES AND PRAYER BOOKS
IN FINE BINDINGS.
Elegant Photograph Albums, Writing Desks, Work Boxes and Library Inkstands, Fine Gold Pens and Pencils, Fine Note Papers and Stationery, Pearl Card Cases, Pencils and Paper Knives, Japanese Goods, Fine Diaries for 1877
Jas. B. Dodge & Bro.,
127 Fifth Avenue,
between Smithfield and Grant streets.
Open in the evening until 10 P. M.

1876 Christmas 1876
With the return of the season, I would most respectfully ask you to call and examine my large stock of goods suitable for Holiday Presents
In Engravings the line has never been excelled, and in Photographs, Chromos, Water Colors and Lithographs, I have a full and complete stock.
In the Department of Frames, to which special attention has always been given, will be found a large and varied assortment which, for superiority of manufacture and artistic design, cannot be excelled.
W. W. BARKER,
125 FIFTH AVENUE,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

C. YEAGER & CO,
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS,
Offer to Wholesale Dealers a Large and Complete Stock of
FANCY GOODS
AND
TOYS
AT THE
Lowest Prices!
110 MARKET STREET.

R. H. PALMER & CO.
"LIMITED,"
SUCCESSORS TO R. H. PALMER,
WILL CONTINUE THE
Hat, Cap and Fur Business
AT
No. 151 Wood Street,
AND THE
STRAW, MILLINERY,
AND FANCY GOODS BUSINESS
AT
No. 105 Market Street.

To Manufacturers,
COAL, COKE
AND MINING COMPANIES.
Lot Second Hand 56 and 60 pounds T Rails, of good quality, but little used, and in every respect suitable for Road Sidings and Turnouts. FOR SALE VERY CHEAP.
Apply by letter to
LOCK BOX 1459, Pittsburgh P. O.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.
10,000 *Words and Meanings not in other Dictionaries.*
3,000 Engravings; 1,410 Pages Quarto.
Price $12
FOUR PAGES COLORED PLATES.
"THE BEST PRACTICAL ENGLISH DICTIONARY EXTANT.—*London Quarterly Review*, October, 1873.
The sales of Webster's Dictionaries throughout the country during 1873 were 20 times as large as the sales of any other Dictionaries. A family of children having WEBSTER'S UNABRIDGED, and using it freely, and another not having it, the first will become much the most intelligent men and women. Ask your teacher or minister if it is not so, then buy the book and use, and urge the use, freely. Published by
G. & C. MERRIAM, Springfield, Mass.

GERMANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF NEW YORK.
Statement of Condition of the Com'py. JANUARY 1ST, 1876.

Cash Capital		$ 500,000 00
Reserve for Re-Insurance		515,853 37
Reserve for Losses under adjustment		78,138 07
Net Surplus		616,159 88
		$1,710,151 32

INVESTMENT OF ASSETS.

Cash on hand and in Bank	$ 171,826 51
Bonds and Mortgages, being first lien on Real Estate	715,700 00
United States Bonds (market value)	589,275 00
Bonds of the City of New York and Brooklyn, (market value)	47,845 00
Bank Stocks (market value)	6,300 00
Loans secured by Collaterals	35,462 48
Real Estate	50 487 34
Interest and Rents Accrued, January 1st, 1876	19,604 46
Cash in hands of Agents and in course of transmission	70,040 46
Premiums due and uncollected on Policies issued at Home Office	3,410 13
	$1,710,151 32

JOHN D. BIGGERT, Agent,
TUF Office, 61 Fourth avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY ACADEMY,
Chester, Delaware County, Pa.
Session reopens January 3. Thorough instruction in Civil Engineering, the Classics and English Branches. For circulars apply to CHAS. H. PAULSON, 66 Wood street, Pittsburgh, or to COL. THEO. HYATT, President.

PATENTS.
Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult P. A. LEHMANN, of Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and G streets, or 59 Fifth avenue, Pittsburgh
Send for circular

DRY GOODS

1877.

"A VERY H

To A

Thanking our numerous f
the past twenty five years, w
have already been made with
to purchasers of GOODS of A
examination, as being superio
In addition to the above, a
chases have been made, under
the present month, while thro
LY—all combining to make on
DOMESTIC, HOUSEKEEPING,
QUALITY and VALUE, will be
With the large and exten
and NEW DEPARTMENTS a
Respectfully soliciting th

Nos. 165,

FURNISHING GOODS, &C.

HolidayGoods
JOSEPH HORNE & CO.
Invite special attention to the following lines of goods, all of which are being offered at
Bargain Prices!!
LADIES' CLOTH CLOAKS, all the newest materials.
SEAL SKIN SACQUES.
MUFFS, BOAS and HATS
SILK FUR LINED CIRCULARS.
BLACK DRESS SILKS,
Dark Colored Dress Silks.
Light Party Silks.
Ladies' Silk Ties and Bows
Lace Scarfs, Barbes, Collars and Handkerchiefs.
Linen Handkerchiefs, Plain White, Colored and Mourning Borders in great variety.
Silk Handkerchiefs from 25c up.
Fancy Handkerchief and Glove Boxes, Fine Hair Brushes and Combs, Russia Leather Portmonais, Cigar Cases, Companions, &c.
Ladies' Kid Gloves, 1 to 10 Buttons.
Misses' Kid Gloves.
Ladies and Misses' Gloves and Mittens
Men's Cloth and Leather Gloves.
Fur Gauntlets.
Men's Furnishing Goods.
Dressing Gowns and Smoking Jackets.
Linen Handkerchiefs, Silk Handkerchiefs, Silk Mufflers, Cashmere Mufflers, from 25c up.
Neck Dressing, latest novelties.
Linen Collars and Cuffs.
Underwear in all grades.
Open every evening during the week previous to Christmas until 8:30 o'clock.

Retail Store,
197 & 199 Penn Avenue.

HOTELS.

IMPERIAL HOTEL,
The Only First-class Three-Dollar-per-Day Hotel in Washington.
In order to meet the wants of the Traveling Public, this First-class Hotel has reduced its price from Four to Three Dollars per day. The above Hotel is pleasantly located on Pennsylvania avenue, fronting on Pennsylvania avenue, is convenient to the Treasury, Army, Navy, State, Patent and Interior Departments.
N. B.—Take the Pennsylvania Avenue Horse Cars and tell the Conductor to let you off at the Imperial Hotel. JAMES S. PEIRCE, Proprietor.

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL
(FORMERLY HARE'S HOTEL,)
No. 133 Liberty Street, Foot of Fifth Avenue.
TERMS $2 PER DAY.
HUGH KEYS, Proprietor.

CARPETS.

CARPETS!
DRUGGETS,
OIL CLOTHS,
MATTINGS
As we near stock taking, we offer SPECIAL BARGAINS.
BOVARD, ROSE & CO.,
29 Fifth Avenue.

J. & H. PHILLIPS,
Manufacturers and Dealers in
Oil Cloths, Window Shades, &c
GREEN SHADE CLOTH A SPECIALTY.
Also, Agents for the BOSTON BELTING CO.'S RUBBER BELTING HOSE, STEAM PACKING, &c.
Dealers in LEATHER BELTING, LACE, LEATHER and RUBBER GOODS GENERALLY.
PAINTING, GRAINING and GLAZING.
NOS. 26 and 28 SIXTH STREET,
PITTSBURGH, PA

PROPOSALS.

OFFICE OF CONTROLLER OF ALLEGHENY CO., PITTSBURGH, PA., December 30, 1876.

Notice to Butchers and Bakers.
SEALED PROPOSALS, directed to the Board of Prison Inspectors, will be received at this office until FRIDAY, January 5, 1877, inclusive, for furnishing the County Jail with good WHEAT BREAD, for six months, from January 15, 1877.
Also, proposals as above, for good BOILING BEEF (not over twenty-five per cent. bone), for six months, from date of contract.
HENRY WARNER,
County Controller.

JAMES ANGLIM,
PUBLISHER OF
LANMAN'S
Biographical Anna's
AND DEALER IN
RARE, OLD & CURIOUS BOOKS
F Street, near the Treasury,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Books bought in large or small quantities.
Law Books. Early American History, Valuable Government Publications, and Standard Works on all subjects receive special attention.

Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company,
59 FOURTH AVENUE.
ASSETS $ 40,443,395.98.
SURPLUS $ 3,916,531.48
DIVIDENDS EQUAL TO 4 PER CENT. $3,027,872.83. RATIO OF INCOME TO ASSETS PER CENT.
S. S. DARRIER, Gen'l Agent.

DRY GOODS

MONDAY, J

APPY AND P

ll Our Frien

riends and customers for the
e would now respectfully ann
manufacturers on this side, w
MERICAN PRODUCTION, and
r in every respect to any for
buyer for our house has just
the most advantageous and au
ugh the season a representati
e of the LARGEST and MOST
FANCY GOODS, &c., it has ev
UNSURPASSED ANYWHERE
sive facilities and means cont
dded from time to time, as the
e future and further patronage
We remain, yours truly,

WIL

167 and 169 Fed

JOSEPH HO
MARKET
HAVE NOW OPEN EN
FALL AND AU
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOOD
COTTON AND WOOLEN GOODS, BARE
ERY, STRAW AND SILK GOODS, VEL
OWN IMPORTATION, BLACK AND CO
CLOSE CASH AND SHORT TIME BU
VANTAGE TO EXAMINE OUR STOCK
WHOLESALE

INSURANCE.

Citizens' Insurance Company,

FINANCE AND TRADE.

COMMERCIAL EVENING, January 4, 1877.

Business among the banks was moderate to receive to-day, so far as checking operations in the progress of the January settlements were concerned. Otherwise the general situation presents very little that is important, and nothing that is new. The commercial paper is in some demand among the banks as the offerings are by no means exhausted their loanable surplus, and discount rates continue at the old figures of 7@9 per cent. on the commercial paper and 6@7 per cent. on the banks. Additional dividends cannot to be declared, those announced in our last being that of the Duquesne National Bank of 3 per cent., semi-annual; Pittsburgh National Bank, Allegheny, 3 per cent., semi-annual; Marine National Bank, 3 per cent., semi-annual; Nation's Bank of Savings, Allegheny, 4 per cent., semi-annual; American Bank, 3 per cent. semi-annual; Girard Savings, Allegheny, 4 per cent., semi-annual; Germania Savings Bank, 3 per cent., semi-annual; Federal Trade Company, 10 per cent., semi-annual; Union Company, 10 per cent., semi-annual; Pittsburgh Insurance Company, 8 per cent. (the dividend to be credited on stock notes); City Insurance Company, $2 50 per share; Cash Insurance Company, 8 per cent. ($4 00 per share); Birmingham Insurance Company, 6 per share, semi annual. The dividend list so far has been pretty well kept up considering the plethoric condition of the money market for the past year. In connection with the subject of dividends, we note that twenty-five of the forty-seven New York banks that pay dividends in January and July have declared their dividends for the last six months, and thirteen of them pay less and only one (the Hanover) more than a year ago. The total amount of dividends is $690,500, at the rate of $1,381,000 for the year. This represents a heavy loss of capital.

The returns of bank clearings for the leading cities, as collated by the *Public Ledger*, continue to make a good showing. Last Christmas fell on Saturday, and the following House returns for the week ended December 23, 1876, if compared with returns of the corresponding week of 1875 in which there were but five business days, necessarily show large gains. Still, Chicago and St. Louis, the returns for which were more than one-fifth larger than those for the corresponding year 1875, and in New York, 17 per cent. larger. A comparison of returns for three weeks of December ending on the 23d, eighteen days each, gives seventeen in 1875, gives the following result:

	1876.	1875.
New York	$1,201,920,723	$1,183,898,190
Boston	173,043,549	170,366,760
Philadelphia	119,767,286	122,711,350
Chicago	75,528,143	66,742,673
St. Louis*	72,479,664	69,942,625
San Francisco	41,255,369	36,518,984
Pittsburgh	13,139,858	12,812,295
Total	$1,697,243,602	$1,663,202,027

The clearings of St. Louis should be divided one to bring them to the same basis as the rings of other cities.

Excepting Chicago and New Orleans, the ease is less than the proportion attributable to the greater number of business

In 1876, but the comparison shows sections nearly as large in values, and h larger in quantities than those of weeks of December, 1875. It proves, short, that the tendency toward a re- of business, which appeared in the ections for October, was only tempo- checked by the political uncertainin November, and it is fair to say that that disturbing cause removed, busi- would be in every respect better than is last year.

The Philadelphia bank statement of ages for the past week, as compared that of the previous week, shows an ease in every item of the exhibit exthat of loans, which decreased $417,

The specie increased $300,348, the re- $246,432, the national bank notes 683, the former having been $281,537, due to $298 320, deposits $814,346, and circun $35 267. The increase in deposits in large, and shows the banks able to mmodate all the customers who may money. The increase in specie probarises from the payment of gold interon Government bonds. The decrease earings and circulation is attributable the fact that there was one note during the past week.

The Reading Railroad Company yesday disappointed some of the "bears" in ock by meeting fully, and in cash, not all matured interest on its own bonds, also all interest on the bonds of its d lines. There were quite a goodly ber of creditors present, and the payt went on fully and promptly. It is d this great company has passed the s in its credit. It is stated that the agement of this company is negotiat- $10,000,000 blanket mortgage, bearing cent. interest, and covering the assets e bankrupt rolling mills and furnaces held by the company. It is being used bilateral at forty cents on the dollar.

The shipments of specie from San cisco to China and Japan from January '6 to the end of second week in December, were $11,907,961.

The following table shows the prices of , Government bonds, railway stocks, at the various sessions of the New k Stock Exchange during the day. ished by the Fifth National Bank, 16 Sixth street:

	10:20	11:40	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:00
January 4, 1877.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
6's, 1881, coup	107	108⅝	108⅝	108⅝	108⅛	108⅝
6's, 1881, reg	107	108⅝	108⅝	108⅝	108⅛	108⅝
5's, 1885, coup	109⅛	109⅝	.....	.....	109⅝	.....
5's, 1885, reg	109⅛	109⅝	.....	.....	109⅝	.....
6's, 1887 registered	113⅛	113⅛	.....	.....	113⅛	.....
6's, 1887, coupon	113⅛	113⅛	.....	.....	113⅛	.....
6's, 1868, registered	113⅛	113⅛	.....	.....	113⅛	.....
6's, 1868, coupon	113⅛	113⅝	.....	.....	113⅝	.....
10's, coupons	118⅛	118⅝	.....	.....	118⅝	.....
10's, registered	118⅛	118⅝	.....	.....	118⅝	.....
10's, per cents	111⅝	111⅝	.....	.....	111⅝	.....
7's, Union Pacific	75	75	74	74	74	75
7's, Land Grant, Rivers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Central Pacific	95	95	94	94	94	94
Erie	25	25⅛	25	25	25	25
Erie 2nds	75	75	75	75	75	75
Illinois Central	129	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pacific Mail	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Panama	140	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fargo Express	89	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Adams Express	95½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
United States Express	54½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
New York Central	100½	100⅝	100⅝	100⅝	101⅛	101⅛
Hudson	99	.....	.....	.....	99⅝	.....
Michigan Central	97½	97	97⅛	97	97	97
Lake Shore	96	96	96	96	96	96
Illinois Central	95⅝	95⅝	95⅝	95⅝	95⅝	95⅝
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	93	.....	.....	.....	93	.....
Cleveland & Toledo	93	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Columbus & Indiana Central	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chicago & Northwest	86	.....	.....	86½	86¼	86
Chicago & Northwest pref.	87	.....	.....	.....	.....	87
Rock Island	101	.....	.....	.....	101	100⅝
Pittsburgh	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	94
Fort Wayne preferred	93⅝	.....	.....	93⅝	93⅝	93⅝
Ohio & Mississippi	30	.....	.....	.....	30	.....
Del. & Lack	75⅛	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Atlantic & P. Tel	76	.....	.....	.....	74	75
Missouri Pacific	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hannibal & St. Jos	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Atlantic & P. pref	34	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bur. & Quincy	117⅝	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hannibal & St. Jos. 1st pref	40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union Pac. stock	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Central Pac. bds	107	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union Pac. bonds	101⅞	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. land grants	102	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. S. F. bonds	94¼	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

(By Associated Press.)

Gold Closed at 106⅞.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, January 4.—Money 5@6 cent; 7 to 7 g'll and 1 64 per diem; d at 5@6. Prime mercantile paper per cent. Customs receipts $158,000. Assistant Treasurer disbursed $629, Clearings $24,000,000. Sterling firm 10@486.

GOLD.

ld opened at 107 and closed at 106⅞ ving rates 7 per cent. gold and 1 diem. Silver at London is quoted pence per ounce; here silver bars 131⅞ per ounce bid in greenbacks 123¼ bid in gold; silver coin 123¾

STOCKS AND BONDS.

vernment bonds firm and in good de- and in some cases slightly higher. oad bonds strong and ge erally ier. State bonds lower. The death ndore Vanderbilt having long been cted did not produce any effect on the market to-day, although it was eable there were more than the usual ngs in New York Central. The ase in the stocks in which Commodore Vanderbilt had a large interest were lows: New York Central opened at fell to 100⅛, advanced to and closed at 101⅛; Lake Shore d at 96¾, fell to 95⅝, advanced and closed at 96⅜; Harlem sold only twenty shares of New York, and Hartford sold at 152, the last ous quotation having been 151@153; ern Union Telegraph, of which the ndore was understood to have held siderable amount (as having been a or in the company and a member of executive Committee), opened at 72⅝, 72, advanced to 72⅞, and closed at Other changes were unimportant. actions 99,000 shares, of which 11,000 Western Union, 3,000 St. Paul pre- 5,000 Lake Shore, 6,000 New York al, 2,000 Ohio and Mississippi, 22,000 gan Central and 9,000 Delaware, awanna and Western. The following the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
Union Tel	73	N. J. Central	93¾
silver	12¾	Rock Island	100⅝
preferred	17¾	St. Paul	34⅝
o Mail	77½	Do. preferred	53¾
ern	72⅞	Toledo & Wabash	14
preferred	95⅞	Ft. Wayne	100¾
Express	89	Terre Haute	3
Fargo Ex	89½	Do. preferred	8
ican Ex	56¾	Chicago & Alton	90
tate Ex	55	Do. preferred	101
ork Central	101	Ohio & Mississippi	61¾
		Del. & Lack	75¾
preferred	17¾	Atlantic & P. Tel	75
n	132¾	Missouri Pacific	3
an Central	47¾	Hannibal & St. Jos	15
		Atlantic & P. pref	34
s	117¾	Bur. & Quincy	117¾
hore	96¾	Hannibal & St. Jos. 1st pref	40
Central	64¼	Union Pac. stock	60
Pacific	38	Central Pac. bds	107
western	56	Union Pac. bonds	101⅞
preferred	57	Do. land grants	102
& I	38	Do. S. F. bonds	94¼

The following is the report of the prices ding stocks on the Philadelphia Stock d, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
sylvania Central	.....	.....	48⅝
ing	.....	.....	18¾
Cos. of N. J	138	.....	.....
Title & Buffalo	8½	8¾	.....
h Valley	48¾	48¾	.....
heny Valley	.....	.....	102¼
al Transportation	48	48¾	.....
ke Transportation	8	8¼	.....
& St. L. R. b	85	86	.....

(By Associated Press.)

Closed at Noon.

NEW YORK, January 4.—Gold 107⅛@107¼. Sight exchange on New York ¼ per cent. discount. Sterling exchange 516.

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, January 4, 1877.

The only change worthy of special mention are in dry goods and highwines, most other articles remaining quiet at previous quotations. The receipts of flour and grain are not heavy and the market is firm at unchanged prices. The weather and roads being favorable, the country people are taking advantage of the same are sledding their surplus hay to market. The heavy receipts of loose hay has weakened prices, and should the snow continue, the rates will recede from the present figures. Groceries of every description continue quiet and firm, and with navigation closed above and below, we should not be surprised to have to note an advance in prices ere long.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city since our last are as follows: Flour, bbls..... 1,250 Butter, pkgs..... 91
Barley, bus..... 980 Bacon, pcs..... 1,431
Rye, bus..... 170 Potatoes, bus..... 25
Oats, bus..... 4,940 Corn, bus..... 2,415
Apples, bbls..... 20 Hay, bales..... 108

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free in elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

FLOUR—The supply is fully up to the demand, and the market is firm and moderately active, particularly choice and fancy brands. We may add some dealers predict an upward move ment ere long. We quote: No. 1 white wheat flour at $8 00 ₱ barrel; No. 1 amber do $7 75; prime red wheat flour $7 50; in sacks 2⅝ less ₱ barrel; Wisconsin $6 50@6 75; Minnesota $7 00@7 25; fancy St. Louis $9 00@9 25; Graham flour $7 50@7 75; commercial do $6 ₱ bushel; middlings $7 50@8 00 ₱ barrel; kegs $4 00@4 50; rye flour $4 25@4 50 ₱ barrel.

GRAIN—Oats is in fair receipt, but wheat, corn and rye comes in slowly. However the stock in store is fully up to all immediate and future demands. The market is quiet, steady and firm at unchanged prices. We quote: Prime red at $1 40 ₱ bushel; prime amber $1 43@1 45; prime white $1 45@1 50. Corn is firm on new ear owing to light receipts. Prices are steady, as follows: Old shelled 55@55c ₱ bushel for prime yellow and high mixed; new ear 52@55c; prime new shelled 51@52c. Oats are in good supply but no lower. Demand is moderate and business is steady at 40@41c ₱ bushel for prime white; mixed 38@39c. Rye is in good supply and in the demand, and quoted at 70@75c. Barley quiet at 85c for choice; 75@80c for good to prime spring; prime fall $1 00; low grades 60c; market dull; jobbing sales at the customary advance.

HAY—Loose hay is coming in freely, and prices are slightly shaded. We quote from wagon at $12 00@14 00 ₱ ton. No. 1 timothy $13 00@14 00; No. 2 timothy $11 00@12 00 from first hands baled. Prairie—Upland $10 00@12 00; mixed $9 00@10 00.

MILL FEED—Is steady at the following rates: Bran $12 50@13 00 per ton; middlings $20 00@22 00; seconds and shipstuffs $15 00@17 00; chopped feed $20 00@22 00.

Country Produce.

APPLES—Supply rather scarce and there is a good demand for prime, whilst common are dull sale. Following are the ruling figures: Prime $1 25@1 50 ₱ bbl; common dull sale at 75c@$1 10 ₱ bbl.

APPLE BUTTER—Is held at 40@45c ₱ gallon.

BEESWAX—Is quoted at 28@30c ₱ lb.

BEANS—Are in fair demand at $1 90@2 00 for prime white navy.

BROOM-CORN—Prices are unchanged with sales at the following figures: Choice hurl 6@7c, as to quality; brush that will work up 6@6½c; medium grass 4½@5c; red-tipped 4@4½c; inferior not desired; crooked in fair demand at about 33 per cent. off from the prices given as to quality.

BUTTER—Prices are unchanged. Creamery rolls are held at 28@30c; prime to choice do packed 26@28c; do roll 20@22c; choice dairy rolls 24@26c.

CANDLES—Unsalable. Manufacturers quote at 12½@13c; retailed 15c; do twics 22c. Wax nuts—Naples 23c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 16c. Sun-dried figs, new, in boxes 12c. Macaroni 11@13c. Tapioca 10c. Lemons—Palermo, ₱ box, $5 00. Oranges—Florida, $3 50 ₱ hundred. Cocoanuts $7 00 ₱ hundred.

CANNED GOODS—We have no change to note in prices. The market cannot be called active, still there is a moderate trade doing. We quote green peas, 2 ₱ cans ₱ doz, 42 25; raspberries do $2 00; strawberries do $1 75; gooseberries do $1 30; pineapples do, $2 25; blackberries do, 50; peaches, 2 ₱ cans ₱ doz, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 00; pickles, bbls, $8 50; half-bbls, $5 00.

CHEESE—The supply is sufficient and prices remain at $8 00@10 00 ₱ barrel; $3 25@3 50 ₱ bushel.

CIDER—The demand is fair and supply liberal. Prices range from $7 50@8 50, barrel included, for common; $11 00@12 00 for extra choice.

DRIED FRUIT—Dull and prices as previously given. We quote dried apples nominal at 4½@5c ₱ lb for prime, and 3½@4c for factory; dried peaches 11@12c; evaporated peaches 25c.

DRIED PEAS—There is a good demand for new at $1 50@1 75 per bushel.

EGGS—Supply moderate, with good demand at unchanged prices. We quote: Selected fresh 22@23c ₱ dozen, and scarce; pickled are plenty at 20@22c, and not fancied.

HAWKINS—Choice are in demand at 60@65c in wholesale lots; lower qualities 50@60c.

HONEY—Supply equal to the demand and in bark-t dull. We quote live chickens by the coop at 40@45c ₱ pair; dressed 12@ 14c ₱ lb. Live turkeys, 10@12c; dressed 14@15c ₱ lb. Ducks 45@50c ₱ pair; dressed 10@ 12c ₱ lb. Geese 60@65c ₱ pair; dressed 10@ 12c ₱ lb. Rabbits 15c. Quails $1 50 ₱ dozen. Woodcock $2 00@2 25 ₱ dozen, and scarce; pickled are plenty at 2@3c, and not fancied.

POTATOES—Prices are firm. We quote: Prime peachblows from store at $1 25@1 50 ₱ bushel; lower grades $1 00@1 10.

VINEGAR—There is a moderate demand at 17@18c ₱ gallon for prime country stock; 14@15c for best city make.

Provisions.

BACON—The receipts of bulkmeats foot up 4,831 pieces. We quote as follows: Shoulders 5c ₱ pound; short rib sides 9½c; clear sides 10@10½c.

CURED AND CURED MEATS—Hams are firm at 12½c ₱ lb for extra sugar-cured. Breakfast bacon rules easy and we quote sugar-cured at 13½c. Sugar-cured shoulders were steady at 9½c. Dried beef, sugar-cured, was firm at 14½c. Beef tongues, ₱ dozen, are quoted at $6 50.

LARD—We quote as follows: Refined land in tierces 12½@13c ₱ lb; in half barrels 13½c ₱ lb; in buckets 13¼c ₱ lb; in 3-lb pails 14½c ₱ lb; in 2-lb pails 14½c ₱ lb; in 1-lb pails 14¾c ₱ lb. Leaf lard rules at 11½c in tierces.

LARD OIL—The market is quiet. We quote best make of extra at 90@95c; current make 87c; No. 1 at 75c ₱ gallon; No. 2 at 60c; miners' oil, white winter, 58@60c; yellow winter, 53@55c.

MESS BEEF—Is held at $8 per barrel.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers', city rendered, at 9@9½c ₱ lb; country do 7½@8c ₱ lb; rough 5½@6c ₱ lb.

Groceries.

Market quiet and firm with a moderate demand at unchanged prices. The following are the ruling quotations:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Sugars.*	₱ lb.
Fancy Rio	21½c	Standard A	11¾c
Choice Rio	21½c	Standard B	11½c
Prime Rio	20½c	Extra C	11¼c
Good Rio	20 c	Extra C—yel.	9¾@10 c
Ordinary Rio	19½c	Yellow C	9¼@9½c
Java	29@30c	New Orleans	8¾@10 c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans, ₱ gall	65 c
Rio, in papers	23½c	Cut Loaf	13¾c
Rio, all grades do	22@24c	Crushed	12½c
Rio, in bulk	22@24c	Powdered	12½c
Java, in papers	30@32c	Granulated	12½c
Java, in bulk	30@32c	*Molasses.*	₱ gal.
Teas.		Cuba Sup. N. O	50@52c
Young Hyson	25@60 c	Prime	55@58c
Gunpowder	35@ 90	*Syrups.*	
Imperial	30@ 80	Ex. white drips	61@65c
Japan	25@ 85	Sugar drips	55c
Oolong	25@ 75	Superfine	45@50c
Fancy do	80	*Starch.*	₱ lb
Souchong	28@ 70	Pearl	5½@6 c
Spices (whole).	₱ oz.	Corn gloss	9½c
Cloves	45 c	Corn	7½@10½c
Allspice	25 c	Chicago gloss	8 c
Cassia	30@33 c	Chicago corn	8½c
Nutmegs	1 15	*Rice.*	
Pepper	25 c	Choice Carlina	6¼@7 c
Soaps.		Louisiana	5½@6¾ c
Irish soap, ₱ box	4 20	*Soda.*	
Castile, ₱ box	8 00	60 cl-arch, in 1-lb papers	5½c
Babbitt's best, ₱ box	6 75	60 cl-arch, in 10-lb pkgs	5 c
Gold do	5 00	60 cl-arch, in papers	5½c
Extra olive do	8 25	*Saleratus.*	
Do. N. Y. City, ₱ box	4 50	star, full wt	6 c
Standard mottled do	3 50	Standard	5½@5¾c
Castile, ₱ box	4 20	Mould	11½c

FISH—The only change we have to note in this line is herring, which have advanced to $3 00. Quotations are as follows:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl.
Extra No. 1 Mess		Round herring	$7 00
mackerel	$27 00	split Labrador do	7 50
Extra No. 1 shore	20 00	Lake Fish, lil-bbls	3 50
Extra No. 1 bay	17 00	Salmon trout do	7 00
Extra No. 2 large	12 00	Lge Georges cod-	
No. 2 medium	9 50	fish, ₱ lb	6c
Large No. 3	11 00	Medium Georges	5½
No. 3 medium	8 50	Halibut, ₱ lb	12½
Whitefish, lil-bbls	5 00	Herring, ₱ box	35
Lake Trout, do	4 50	Scaled herring do	40

FOREIGN FRUITS—The market is very quiet since the holidays, though there is a moderate demand. Prices remain unchanged as follows: Layer raisins new, per box, $2 25; London layers, new, $3 25; Muscatel $2 50; mat raisins $4 25 ₱ mat; Valentias, new, 10c ₱ lb; Smyrna 17c. Dates 9@9½c. Currants 7½c. Citron 26c. Prunes 6½c. Almonds—Languedoc 22c; ordinary shelled 35c; do Princess 55c; do Jordan 55c, do fvica 22c. Walnuts—Naples 23c; Marbot 15c; Sicily filberts 16c. Sun-dried figs, new, in boxes 12c. Macaroni 11@13c. Tapioca 10c. Lemons—Palermo, ₱ box, $5 00. Oranges—Florida, $3 50 ₱ hundred. Cocoanuts $7 00 ₱ hundred.

CANNED GOODS—We have no change to note in prices. The market cannot be called active, still there is a moderate trade doing. We quote green peas, 2 ₱ cans ₱ doz, $2 25; raspberries do $2 00; strawberries do $1 75; gooseberries do $1 30; pineapples do, $2 25; blackberries do, 50; peaches, 2 ₱ cans ₱ doz, $2 25; tomatoes do, $1 00; pickles, bbls, $8 50; half-bbls, $5 00.

Petroleum.

January 4.—The market remains quiet, dealers continuing apart in their views. Prices are altogether nominal. We have seldom noticed less inclination to operate. The outlook at present favors buyers, who are still waiting for lower prices. From present indications they will not have long to wait. According to Eastern quotations refined in this market is not worth more than 18c per gallon, there are no sellers at that figure. The Eastern markets are very much demoralized, having no export demand. At New York spot is nominal at 27c, without buyers. At Baltimore and Philadelphia the markets continue dull; buyers seem to have absented themselves.

OIL REGIONS—Dull and quiet with prices unchanged: city made $1 50.

PARKERS, January 4, 5:50 P. M.—The crude oil market has been dull and unchanged throughout the day, prices gradually giving away with a total depreciation of 10c. United and Comstock opened at 56½, declined to $3 46¾, every attempt to rally proving a failure. The present quotation is $3 46¾. Shipment neglected; holders asking in morning $3 50@3 55; best bids $3 45. There was no inquiry for Union and no quotations are given. Shipments from the lower district for the 3d inst. 14,551 barrels.

OIL CITY, January 4.—The *Derrick* says: The opening price was $3 61½, from which point there was a gradual decline, with little business, to $3 57¼ at which point it hung throughout the greater portion of the day. During the afternoon a few lots changed hands at $3 56@3 56½. In the evening the first sale was at $3 56¾, but little was done; it closed nominal as to prices, same quotations. Shipments 84,775 bbls. Sales and resales 51,000 barrels.

(By Western Union Telegraph.)

NEW YORK, January 4, closing 5.—A very dull market yet prevails, but there were no concessions in prices. The following are the quotations for New York delivery: Crude in bulk per in barrels 18c; city naptha 18c in shipping order refined in barrels 27c for spot casks 33@ 36c. At Philadelphia and Baltimore refined, spot, rules at 27c.

TITUSVILLE, January 4.—Nothing doing; market nominally $1 80.

OIL CITY, January 4.—Market dull and weak; offered at $3 56¾ for United; immediate shipment offered at $3 57¼.

ROUSSEVILLE, January 4.—Market quiet and dull; held about $3 70.

TIDIOUTE, January 4.—Market quiet but firmly held at $3 75.

PARKERS, January 4.—United $3 55¾ bid; shipment nominally $3 65.

PHILADELPHIA, January 4.—Market quiet; standard white 28c; crude 12½c; cases 31c.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, January 4.—Petroleum dull and nominal; crude 16c; refined 27c; city naptha 18c.

PHILADELPHIA, January 4.—Petroleum firm; crude in barrels 17c; refined 28c.

BALTIMORE, January 4.—Petroleum firm; crude 15¾@12½c; refined nominally 28c.

LIVERPOOL, January 4.—Refined petroleum 20d; spirits do 13@13½d.

LONDON, January 4.—Refined petroleum 18¾d.

ANTWERP, January 4.—Refined petroleum 49 francs.

CLEVELAND, January 4.—Petroleum unchanged; standard white, 110 degrees test, 27c.

MOVEMENTS OF PETROLEUM.

	Barrels.
Crude receipts, A. V. R. R.	3,453

Dry Goods.

Trade shows some signs of revival, though the market is still quiet and dull. We make some alterations on our figures and quote as follows:

BROWN SHEETINGS.

	Width.	P'ce		Width.	P'ce
Anchor A No. 1	36	8	Harrisburg	36	7
Penn Mill do	4-4	8	Newbury	36	7
Eagle No. 1	36	8	Laconia E	36	7
Western trade	36	7	Laconia B	36	7¼
Magnolia	36	6½	Laconia O	40	8
Avondale	36	7¼	Laconia	9-4	22½
Conestoga A	39	6	Lacona	10-4	25
Conestoga	10-4	25	Waltham	46	11¾
Chippewa	36	4½	Lawrence L. L.	4-4	7

BLEACHED SHEETINGS.

Our Own	37	6	Lonsdale	36	10¾
Suffolk L	36	6¾	Lonsdale Cam	36	14
Fairmount	36	8	Fruit of Loom	36	10¾
Red Bank	36	7	Bay Mill	36	11¾
Rockdale	36	8	Dwight	36	9
Blackstone	36	9½	Wamsutta	36	13
White Rock	36	10	Cabat	42	11
Pocahontas	36	9½	Pepperell	4-4	25
Hill	36	10	Pepperell	10-4	27½

GINGHAMS.

Lancaster	8½	Berkshire	7½
Glasgow	8	Eagle	7½
Renfrew dress sty's	10½	Pinkett's	8½

SHIRTING PRINTS.

Cocheco	6	Sprague's	6
Merrimac	6	American	6
Anchor	6	Allen	6
Oriental	6		

PRINTS.

Conestoga fa'cy	7	Oriental fancy	7
Hamilton fa'cy	7	Cocheco fancy	7
Garner fancy	6½	Hartel	7
Amoskeag fa'cy	7	Berlin solid	7
Richmond	7	Simpson's black	7
Merrimac	7	" fast black	7
American fancy	7	" mourning	7
Southbridge	7		

DELAINES AND WORSTED DRESS GOODS.

(Pacific and Manchester Mills.)

3-4 Poplin	24	Wigans	20
3-4 Alpaca Luster	30	6-4 Alpacas A	32½
3-4 Corded Alpacas	30	3-4 Man'r Cash're	20
3-4 Pacific Twills	18	6-4 Pacific	32½
3-4 Pole Cloth	20	6-4 Pacific do	32½
3-4 Arabians	32½	6-4 H. L. D. W. Pop	32½

CANTON FLANNELS—BROWN.

Hamilton R	8	Franklin A	9½
Hamilton Stout	11½	Nashua A	9½
New Market O	7½	Nashua X	10
Arlington A	9	Park River	12½

CANTON FLANNELS—BLEACHED.

Mass. R	10	Fairmont Y	13½
Tremont P	10	Lawrence AX	14
Tremont A	12		

TICKING.

Conestoga X	7-8	9	Thorndike
Conestoga A A	7-8	10	Portsmouth
Conestoga C T	14	13½	Portsmouth A
" gold m'd	14-4	15	Whittaker
" prem. A	4-4	18	Whittaker

MISCELLANEOUS.

White carpet chain		Colored carp't ch'n,	
fine	20	fine	27
Cot'n bat	10@12	Cottontwine	20

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Central Stock Yards, East Liberty.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, January 4, 1877.

CATTLE.

As before stated, the run of cattle was considerably heavier this week than last, which is in some degree attributed to the Ashtabula disaster, but the Northern drovers have not brought a good many cattle to this market which were intended for Buffalo. The market was somewhat slow, best grades barely bringing last week's prices, but medium and common sold a shade lower. Hamilton-Loughrey & Co. report the following as the price of cattle:

Best, 1,500 to 1,600 lbs		$5 75@6 00	
Prime, 1,300 to 1,400 lbs		5 50@5 75	
Good, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs		4 50@5 00	
Fair, 1,000 lbs		4 12½@4 50	
Bulls, stags and cows		3 00@4 50	

HOGS.

There was another drop in prices this morning in consequence of heavy arrivals. The supply now exceeds the demand, and all indications point downward. We quote as follows:

Prime Philadelphias	$7 00@7 50
Good Yorkers	6 75@7 00
Roughs	5 75@6 00

SHEEP.

The supply has been fair and the market rather slow at a decline of 12½@25c, the heavy cattle being on common grades. Following are the ruling quotations to-day:

Best, 100 to 110 lbs	$5 50@5 60
Best, 90 to 100 lbs	5 25@5 35
Common	3 50@4 00
Common clipped	3 50@4 00

MILCH COWS.

Prices range from $35 00 to $70 00, as to condition and qualities as milkers.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, January 4.—Beeves—Receipts 2,410 head, including 3,440 head for the week; against 3,350 head for the same time last week. Demand fair and market firm at the advance of 25c noticed yesterday, with sales of common to prime steers and oxen at $5 50@11 50; extra prices $11 75@12 00; one car of choice cattle brought $12 75. All sold.

Sheep—Receipts 6,400 head, making 7,360 head for three days, against 5,600 head for the same time last week. Market active and firm at full prices, ranging from $4 50@6 50 for the poor to choice; extra State sheep, 121 lbs., sold at $7 00; 1 car load Ohio, same weight, $7 75; 1 car load choice Canada lambs, $8 50@8 75.

Swine—Receipts 4,700 head, making 7,770 head for three days against 8,300 head for the same time last week. Four car loads for sale alive, with 2one car load light Ohio, 155 lbs., at $7 25 and three cars heavy Illinois at $6 90@7 00.

CINCINNATI, January 4.—Hogs quiet; common $5 50@5 80; fair to good light $5 90@6 40; packing $5 90@6 40; heavy $6 80@6 90.

INDIANAPOLIS, January 4.—Hogs quiet but steady at $6 25. Receipts 3,000 head.

BUFFALO, January 4.—Cattle—Receipts 62 head; total for the week 3,728 head. Seven cars only of fresh arrivals 4 cars for sale and 9 cars through held in yards for shipment to-morrow Market quiet; sales of 3 cars steers at full yesterday's prices.

Sheep and lambs—Receipts 2,600 head; total for the week 8,100 head. Market slow at yesterday's quotations; sales of 6 cars; balance of receipts consigned through.

Hogs—Receipts 2,000 head. Market active and strong at yesterday's prices; sales of 4 cars light to medium Yorkers, 147 to 171 lbs, at $6 85@6 90; 1 car medium heavy, 220 lbs, at $6 90; 1 car do, 292 lbs, at $7 20.

CHICAGO, January 4.—Cattle—Receipts 3,400 head. Shipments 2,100 head. Market fairly active and a shade higher; common to fair cows at $2 25@3 50; feeders and medium steers $3 75@4 10; good to extra $4 40@5 35; one lot of extra prime sold at $6 12½.

Hogs—Receipts 24,000 head. Shipments 1,200 head. Market active, firm and a shade higher; sales at $6 15@6 75, chiefly $6 20@6 65 for fair to choice smooth.

Sheep—Receipts 1,500 head. Market dull; sales at $3 00@5 00.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Produce.

CHICAGO, January 4.—Flour scarce and firm; low to fancy Western extra $5 50@6 50; Minnesota $7 25@9 00; winter extra $6 00@8 00. Wheat dull, weak and lower; No. 2 Chicago spring $1 23¾ cash; $1 27¾ February; $1 29 March; No. 3 do at 1 15@1 16; rejected 1 07½@1 09c. Oats—Receipts 21,000 bushels; Western mixed and white 38@43c. Hay and hops unchanged. Coffee quiet; Rio cargoes 18@21½c. Sugar, molasses and rice unchanged. Rosin dull. Eggs firm; Western 35@37c. Pork dull at $17 87½@17 90. Beef quiet. Middles—Long clear 9½@9¾c. Land dull and declined; prime steam 11 30@11 40c. Butter dull; western 31c. Cheese quiet but firm at 7@11c. Whisky steady at $1 08.

CINCINNATI, January 4.—Cotton higher at 12¼c. Flour firm and unchanged. Wheat stronger; red $1 25@1 45. Corn in good demand at lower rates—45@46c. Oats firm at 33@

CITY MATTERS.

For seventy-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Weather Report.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 24, FIRST NAT. BANK, PITTSBURGH, PA., January 4, 1877.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum.	Dir.	Wind Miles P Hour	Weath.
7 A.M.	29.903	11	80	W.	4	Cloudy
2 P.M.	30.023	18	68	W.	6	Fair.
9 P.M.	30.106	13	87	W.	6	Cloudy

Mean barometer....30.222. Highest thermom.... 19
Mean thermom.... 14 7. Lowest thermom.... 10

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SIGNAL SERVICE U. S. ARMY,
PITTSBURGH, January 4, 1877, 10:45 P. M.

Cairo, Ills.—Ther. 35; wind S.; clear.
Cincinnati, O.—Ther. 20; wind S. E.; cloudy.
Davenport, Iowa—Ther. 34; wind E.; cloudy.
Denver, Col.—Ther. 38; wind W.; cloudy.
Indianapolis, Ind.—Ther. 17; wind E.; clear.
Keokuk, Iowa—Ther. 28; wind E.; fog.
Leavenworth—Ther. 33; wind S.; clear.
Louisville, Ky.—Ther. 22; clear.
Memphis, Tenn.—Ther. 37; wind S.; clear.
Nashville, Tenn.—Ther. 34; wind S.; clear.
Omaha, Neb.—Ther. 32; cloudy.
Pittsburgh—Ther. 15; wind S.; fair.
Portland, Oregon—Ther. 49; wind S.; cloudy.
Salt Lake City—Ther. 31; wind E.; cloudy.
San Diego, Cal.—Ther. 59; wind S. W.; clear.
San Francisco, Cal.—Ther. 50; clear.
Santa Fe, N. M.—Ther. 28; wind N.; clear.
Shreveport, La.—Ther. 37; wind S.; clear.
St. Louis, Mo.—Ther. 33; wind S.; clear.
Vicksburg, Miss.—Ther. 39; wind S.; clear.
Virginia City—Ther. 40; wind S. W.; cloudy.
Fort Gibson—Ther. 38; wind S.; cloudy.

Pennsylvania Female College.

The next term will open January 3d. Grammar School Department same date. For information apply to the President, Thomas C. Strong.

A Challenge to "Billy" Scharff.

Ed. Hanlon, of Toronto, the winner of the single-scull race at the Centennial regatta, publishes a challenge to William Scharff, of Pittsburgh, offering to row him on Toronto Bay for from $500 to $2,000 a side, allowing him a fair amount for expenses, the race to take place early in June next.

The Coal Miners' Strike.

The coal miners' strike is likely to be brought speedily to an end by the advance of the price of digging to three cents per bushel. It is said that the Duquesne Coal Company on the Pennsylvania Railroad and Messrs. Gray & Bell, of Saw Mill Run, have agreed to pay the amount stated. If this is so it will in all probability bring others in and work will be resumed all round.

Homœopathic Hospital Dispensary.

During the month of December the attending physicians have made 937 prescriptions and have treated fifty-nine surgical cases, consisting of fractures, dislocations, &c. They have vaccinated 110 persons and have made sixty seven visits to those who were unable to come to the Dispensary. The demands upon the hospital and dispensary at times far exceeds its supply. As high as eighty prescriptions have been given in one day, while the average for the year is nearly thirty-five. The Dispensary is open from 10 to 12 A. M. and 2 to 3 P. M.

Unknown Man Killed.

The Uniontown express on the Pennsylvania Railroad yesterday afternoon struck an unknown man near Braddocks. The man died soon afterwards and was brought to the city, and Coroner Thomas held an inquest last evening. The identity of deceased was not discovered. He appeared to be about forty-five years of age, five feet ten inches in height, and wore a black coat and pants and vest. The verdict of accidental death was rendered by the jury. The body was taken to Williams' undertaking establishment, 315 Fifth avenue, where it will remain to-day for identification.

Jail Warden's Report.

Following is the substance of the report of Jail Warden Smith to the State Board of Public Charities for the quarter ending December 31, 1876:

Prisoners committed, 1,159. Of these, 431 were Court cases and 728 summary convictions. There were 24 United States cases. There were 30 sentenced to the Penitentiary; 38 to the Workhouse, 10 to jail, 3 to the House of Refuge, 35 sentenced to payment of fine and costs, and 2 sentenced to be hung—Myers and Green. During the quarter, there were among others, 7 committed on charge of murder; burglary, 4; 31 assault and battery and 42 indictments for simple and aggravated assault and battery; embezzlement, 6; false pretense, 12; larceny, 107; malicious mischief, 10; manslaughter, 1. There were 603 drunks, 17 vagrants, and 108 disorderly conduct cases. At the end of the quarter there were remaining in the jail 138, of whom 16 were women. During the year ending December 31, there were confined in the jail 4,118 prisoners. There were tried during the year 1,716 court cases; summary convictions 3,102.

Help for the Poor.

To the Editor of Pittsburgh Commercial:

We again appeal to our citizens, who have been blessed with plenty, in behalf of the Association for the Improvement of the Poor. The want of clothing, provisions and money compels us to do this. To the individuals and churches who have so often filled our depleted treasury we are deeply thankful. But are there not some who have not yet responded to this call? Let these bring their offering, however small, and help on this good work. The "widow's mite" is needed, as well as the princely gifts of the rich. Give as the "Lord hath prospered" and at evening time, when the easy chair has been drawn close to the comfortable fireside, and the cold and storm remind one of sufferings from poverty without, inward consciousness of having done something to relieve the needy will give more happiness than can be found in the possession of worldly things. Send clothing and provisions to 100 Liberty street. Money may be left with Messrs. Holmes & Sons, Bankers, Market street. By order of the Board of Managers.

MRS. J. S. C.

Reply to Mrs Swisshelm.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Mrs. Jane G. Swisshelm, as we all know, wields a vigorous pen, and never writes without saying something, and what she says is generally good. But she knows no nice extremes. Her laudations and her denunciations are alike extravagant.

In her article in the COMMERCIAL of yesterday, on the temperance movement, there is more gall and more injustice than in anything I have ever known her to write. The impression she gives to her readers—and the impression which would go abroad were she the only chronicler—is that the men who, under the lead of Francis Murphy, numbering nearly seven thousand, have solemnly pledged themselves to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, are a set of idle, lazy vagabonds and tramps, who signed merely that they might get a little food without working for it. That, in brief, is the sum of her article.

The writer of this article has been a close and attentive observer of this work for some three weeks past, and therefore he knows whereof he affirms. Whether Mrs. Swisshelm has been a personal observer at all I know not; but I have neither seen her nor heard of her at any of the meetings. Be that as it may, I beg leave to say what I know to be true:

1. That a large majority—more than ten to one—are our own citizens, men who do work and are now working; but who unfortunately had fallen into the habit of spending much of their earnings for strong drink, and much of their time in drinking houses, to the detriment of both themselves and their families.

2. That some who came in had become so besotted that they could get no work, and consequently their families were suffering.

3. That some, through dissipation, had become separated from their families, but are now reunited and happy. The testimony of these persons, where it was given, and the narratives of others, were exceedingly touching.

4. That the new and better aspirations of many of these reclaimed men have developed in them a measure of native talent and true manhood which astonishes those who a little while ago regarded them as utterly despicable.

5. That many, very many, of these poor fellows who, less than a month ago, were the debased slaves of an evil habit, are now, so far as human observation can go, sincere and humble Christians, and are laboring with all their might for the salvation of others.

6. That Christians, both clergy and laity, of all denominations, are giving to this great movement their hearty sympathy and cooperation.

But Mrs. Swisshelm talks a good deal about "tramps." Have some of them signed Murphy's pledge? Very likely, and possibly some of them have done so on the same principle that hypocrites creep into the Christian church, and she complains bitterly because some kind ladies gave to the poor a little food on New Year's day. In her bad humor she forgot the instructions the Saviour gave to those who made feasts; but those good ladies did not forget. He told them to call the poor and the maimed, those who were unable to reciprocate; and when he fed five thousand poor near the shore of the Galilean lake, we do not read that he first wed out the unworthy and undeserving—the "tramps."

But what are tramps? That some of them are idle and thriftless vagabonds is true. But suppose a poor man, however honest, can get nothing to do in the place where he lives, and he sets off on foot, because he has no money wherewith to pay railroad fare, to seek work in another city, he becomes for the time being a tramp. Is such a man deserving of nothing but kicks and cuffs, or a place in the workhouse or the chain gang? It would be a little more Christian on the part of us who have homes and something to do to be more discriminating in our judgment of strangers, however poor they may be.

This much, I think, is due to the great work, and to the men who are struggling to be free from an unfortunate and sinful habit, and to stand up in the strength of a restored manhood before their God and their fellow men.

J. C.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

The Penn Avenue Case Reversed—A Reargument Ordered in the Kelly Case—Frederick Meyers to have a New Trial—A Number of Western Cases Decided

The Supreme Court, on Wednesday, in session at Philadelphia, entered judgment in the following cases:

Per curiam:

Abram Smith and Mary his wife vs. John T. Russell. Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Judgment affirmed.

By Agnew, Chief Justice:

Appeal of Wm. B. Pusey. Certiorari to Quarter Sessions of Allegheny county. Order of December 18, 1875, reversed, and order of October 9, 1875, restored, and a remittatur of record with a *procedendo* awarded.

Beaver Falls Water Power Company et al. vs. Wade Wilson.—Appeal from Common Pleas of Beaver county, in equity. Decree affirmed and appeal dismissed.

Henry W. Williams and John McCord, executors, vs. City of Pittsburgh.—Error to Common Pleas No. 1 of Allegheny county. Order striking off case reversed and judgment ordered to be entered for the amount of damages given by the jury in the lower court.

Frederick Meyers vs. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.—Error to Over and Terminer of Allegheny county. Plaintiff in error was convicted of murder in the first degree. On his trial insanity was urged as a defense, and the court in its charge instructed the jury that to acquit upon that ground they must be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the insanity of the prisoner. This instruction the Supreme Court holds to be error, and say "that to charge that the jury must be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt is too stringent, and throws the prisoner upon a degree of proof beyond the legal measure of his defense. That measure is simply proof which is satisfactory—such as flows from a preponderance of the evidence." In a concurring opinion Judge Paxson takes a different view of the case, holding that the court below was in error in that its charge was inadequate. That it treated only of the defense of insanity, while, although not set up as a defense, there was abundant evidence of such intoxication as amounted to insanity in a secondary form, and would if adverted to have reduced the grade of the offense to murder in a lower degree. Sentence reversed and new trial ordered.

County of Lawrence vs. Overseers of Poor of North Beaver township vs. Eli Leonard. Appeal from Common Pleas of Lawrence county. Decree reversed and bill dismissed with costs.

C. B. Seeley vs. City of Pittsburgh. Error to Common Pleas No. 2, of Allegheny county. In this case the Court sustains fully holds that the frontage rule of assessment for municipal improvements will not be applied to the rural portions of a city, and that the Legislature has not the power to compel owners of rural property to pay for such improvements at the rate charged for similar work in the built up portions. The court below had entered judgment under a special act of Assembly in favor of the city of Pittsburgh, defendant in error, and the judgment is reversed by the Supreme Court. Judge Paxson delivered a dissenting opinion.

James Kelly vs. the city of Pittsburgh. Order of Court below affirmed.

By Mercur, Justice:

James Potts *et al.* vs. Henry Wright *et al.* Error to District Court of Cambria county. Judgment reversed and a *venire facias de novo* awarded.

James McCray vs. John Clark *et al.* Error to Common Pleas of Clarion county. Judgment reversed and a *venire facias de novo* awarded.

B. C. Howard vs. Melton McKee—Error to Common Pleas No. 1, of Allegheny. Judgment reversed and rule made absolute.

Milligan's appeal. Appeal from Orphans' Court of Allegheny county. Decree affirmed and appeal dismissed.

Daniel Knowles vs. D. C. Kennedy. Error to Common Pleas of Erie county. Judgment reversed and *venire facias de novo* awarded.

Samuel Mann vs. Sarah Wieanor. Error to Common Pleas of Northumberland. Judgment reversed and *venire facias de novo* awarded.

Jacob Minnig's appeal from decree of Common Pleas of Erie, in equity. Decree reversed at cost of appellee.

Mary Young's appeal from Orphans' Court of Allegheny. Decree reversed and record remitted for redistribution.

By Gordon, Justice:

James Shumate vs. Elizabeth McGarity.—Error to Common Pleas of Cambria county. Judgment reversed and *venire facias de novo* awarded.

M. D. Hays *et al.* vs. Commonwealth *ex rel.* James McCutcheon.—Error to Common Pleas No. 1 of Allegheny county. Judgment reversed. Judge Woodward dissenting.

Birmingham Fire Insurance Company vs. Wm. C. Kraeger.—Error to Common Pleas No. 2, Allegheny county. Judgment reversed and *venire facias de novo* awarded.

James T. Hogg vs. Catharine T. Ashman. Error to Common Pleas of Fayette county. Judgment reversed and *venire facias de novo* awarded.

James Berg & Co. vs. W. H. Abbott *et al.* Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Judgment reversed and a procedendo awarded.

Garson Shamburg vs. B. F. Ruggles, Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Judgment reversed and a *venire facias de novo* awarded.

Appeal of American Buttonhole Overseaming and Sewing Machine Company. Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Decree affirmed at cost of appellants.

Appeal of Second National Bank of Titusville. Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Decree reversed and a redistribution ordered.

Lycoming Fire Insurance Co. vs. Woodworth, Craig & Co. Error to Common Pleas of Lawrence county. Judgment affirmed.

Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad Company vs. Leopold Hodapp. Error to Common Pleas of Erie county. Judgment reversed and a *venire facias de novo* awarded.

John A. Colwell vs. James Easley. Error to Common Pleas of Armstrong county. Judgment reversed and *procedendo* awarded.

By Paxson, Justice:

Oil Creek and Allegheny Railroad Company vs. Pennsylvania Transportation Company. Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Judgment affirmed.

Fisk vs. Duncan.—Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Judgment reversed, and judgment entered for plaintiff on point reserved for sum of $500.

Pierce vs. Gardner.—Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Judgment affirmed.

Hatton vs. Johnson.—Error to Common Pleas of Crawford county. Judgment reversed, and *venire facias de novo* awarded.

Appeal of Margaret J. Trout from decree of Common Pleas of Mercer county. Decree affirmed, with costs to appellant.

Brooks vs. Phillips. Error to Common Pleas of Lawrence county. Judgment affirmed.

Peter Hutchinson and W. S. Bachelder vs. The Commonwealth. Error to Quarter Sessions of Armstrong county. Judgment affirmed, and defendants remanded to custody of keeper of Allegheny county Workhouse.

By Woodward, Justice:

Mead and wife vs. Leffinwell *et al.* Error to Common Pleas of Crawford. Judgment affirmed.

For reopening of Park avenue, in town of Meadville.—Certiorari to Quarter Sessions of Crawford. Order granting Keeling & Co., right to use a dummy engine on Twenty-first street, South Side, granting Mrs. Elizabeth McConnaughey right to erect a frame addition to buildings on Butler street, establishing width of sidewalk and roadway of Bluff street from Gist to Shingiss street.

The following ordinances also passed by C. C. failed to pass Select branch: Ordinance prohibiting the erection of awning flaps in the city limits, ayes 33, nays 5; opening Woodville avenue from Washington pike to Shaler's ville, Thirty-fifth ward, 35 yeas, nays 0; opening Forty-seventh street from the north side of the Allegheny Valley Railroad track to the south side of the track.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. Shipton, from the Finance Committee presented several resolutions drawn up by the Controller, and providing for the transfer of unexpended balances from certain appropriations to departments where the appropriations are short. Following are the transfers authorized by the resolutions which were adopted:

From printing to Monongahela wharf..	$143 33
From printing to Allegheny wharf..	51 66
From surveys to road department..	597 50
From printing to road department..	157 87
From streets to salary appropriation..	750 00
From printing to city property..	575 00

Mr. Bruce offered a resolution authorizing the payment of fourteen dollars to Messenger Cooper for postage and repairing clocks in Councils chambers. Passed.

Mr. Littell offered a resolution authorizing the payment of $2,686 38, expenses incurred on Butler street extension. The improvement was abandoned after the above expense had been incurred. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bruce offered a resolution expressing the thanks of members to Clerk Morrow for his courtesy, efficiency and faithfulness, as which was unanimously adopted.

The following resolutions passed by C. C. were concurred in: For the opening of Forty-fifth street in conformity with an ordinance for the same limiting the Water Assessor "to three assistants; ins ructing the City Engineer to notify passenger railway companies to repair streets; for the extension of the fire alarm telegraph to the Thirteenth ward; providing for the purchase of a water grappling hook to be kept at the City Hall Janitor's office. A number of resolutions of minor importance were also concurred in.

The dedications of property by Alexander Bates for an alley between Fifth avenue and Arabella street from Shady Lane to Denniston avenue, and for extension of Arabella street from Shady Lane to Denniston avenue were accepted.

Adjourned.

Eleventh Ward Public Schools.

The Eleventh ward, Pittsburgh, School Board organized Wednesday evening with James Shannon as President, and James M. McEwen, Secretary. James M. McEwen was re-elected representative to Central Board of Education.

Mr. M. McEwen is one of the best informed public school men in the city and his re-election to the Central Board is most judicious.

THE PENN AVENUE ACT.

The Decision in the Seeley Case—Speculations as to Its Effect—Excitement Among Taxpayers Generally.

Considerable excitement was created in the city yesterday, in consequence of the announcement that the Supreme Court, sitting in Philadelphia, had reversed the judgment of the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, of this county, in the case of C. B. Seeley vs. the city of Pittsburgh, involving the constitutionality of the Penn avenue act. This was a case stated, the facts having been submitted to Judge Ewing by the City Attorney, Mr. Bigelow, on behalf of the city, and by Capt. Kirker representing Mr. Seeley. The constitutionality of the Penn avenue act had been called in question on several occasions, and it was important, where such vast interests were involved, to have the point judicially settled. Mr. Seeley was a lot holder on Penn avenue, a thoroughfare that had been improved under the Penn avenue act, and an assessment had been made upon him, estimated on the foot frontage, which amounted to $1,673 84. In order to make a case he refused to pay, and, following the terms of the act, a *scire facias* was issued, and the case thus put in shape for adjudication. The main facts agreed upon were, that the property upon which the assessment was made was in the rural portion of the city; that the assessment was upon the foot frontage, and by the city; that the defendant below (Seeley) agreed that judgment should be entered against him for the whole amount claimed, if the court should be of opinion that the assessment was not in derogation of his rights under the Constitution, and that either party should have the right of appeal to the Supreme Court. The court below decided the act constitutional, and judgment was entered in favor of the city. An appeal was taken, and the case was argued before the Supreme Court last fall, Mr. Shiras appearing as additional counsel for the city, and Mr. Woodward assisting Captain Kirker on the other side. On Tuesday last, as will be seen by reference to the Supreme Court decisions elsewhere reported, the Chief Justice reversed the judgment of the Court below. The Philadelphia papers do not give us a synopsis of the opinion, so that it is impossible to tell, at this writing, what principles it is based on, or what effect it will have. The *Ledger* report, which we have copied in full, is very full indeed, and it states that "the court holds that the frontage rule of assessment for municipal improvements will not be applied to the rural portions of a city, and that the Legislature has not the power to compel owners of rural property to pay for such improvements at the rate charged for similar work in the built up portions."

As the constitutionality of the act was involved in the case stated, the reversal of the judgment seems to carry with it the declaration that some portions of the act at least is unconstitutional. It would not necessarily follow, however, that the whole act is void, and that the cost of the improvements paid for under the Penn avenue act and its supplements cannot be assessed upon the property benefitted. If the substance of the opinion as above quoted, is correct, the court goes no further than to declare that the "frontage rule" cannot be applied to rural property and that the Legislature cannot assess rural property at the same rate charged in the built up portions of the city. It does not affirm that the principles of assessing the cost of such improvements upon the property benefitted" is unconstitutional, and the decision, therefore, might have no more serious effect than to cause a remodeling of the legislation on the subject, and the enlargement of the scope of property subject to assessment, as in the construction of sewers. Some members of the bar, well posted in municipal law, take this view; but, until the text of the decision is received, no definite conclusion can be arrived at. It is conceded, however, that the city will have to assume the payment of the $5,028 80 of bonds already issued under the provisions of the act, and as they all become due in ten years it is clear that they will have to be funded, as the city will be unable to pay, in a lump sum. They bear interest at the rate of seven per cent., and it is believed that they can be readily funded at five per cent.

The portions of the streets and alleys were mainly responsible for the Penn avenue act, and of the thirty-four streets improvements thereunder, all were petitioned for by a majority in interest of the front frontage, and the work was done under commissioners chosen by themselves. The popularity of the act consisted in this, that it furnished a ready means for enhancing the value of property, and gave the owners ten years to pay for the improvement. Now, since the bottom has fallen out of real estate the avenues in question, as well as elsewhere, the owners will only be found too willing to accept a gift of the mortgage which has been hanging so heavily upon them. It is not a pleasant thing, however, for the contemplation of the tax payers in the old city, and in the South Side, who will have to bear an equal portion of the burden. They look upon this as "justice" and "equality" with a vengeance, and are up in arms against the decision.

It is believed that the Legislature has power to pass a general law providing for the assessment of the cost of these improvements upon the property benefitted, by means of a board of viewers. It is useless to speculate, however, in the absence of the text of the decision, which will probably be received to day.

Some significance is attached to the fact that an order has been made for a re-argument of the case of Kelly vs. the city of Pittsburgh. In this case it is contended that general city taxes cannot be assessed upon agricultural lands in the rural districts, because such property does not receive the benefits common to the municipality. The court below held that the Legislature has power to levy and collect taxes for general purposes upon any and all property within the corporate limits of the city; and this, it is held, is in accordance with all the other States, with the exception of Kentucky and Iowa. The case was argued before the Supreme Court last fall, and is now ordered for re-argument.

SELECT COUNCIL.

Final Meeting Yesterday—Action of Common Council Extending Time of Compromise with the Nation Trust Company Concurred In—Transfer of Balances.

A final session of the Select branch of our City Councils of 1876, was held yesterday afternoon, David Aiken, Esq., in the chair.

THE TRUST COMPANY COMPROMISE.

Mr. Littell called up the resolution from C. C. extending the time for accepting the $165,000, part of the compromise with the Nation Trust Company stockholders, until the 8th inst., and on motion the concurrence was had. City Attorney Bigelow recommended the action, the stockholders being prepared to pay over the amount at once and give security for the balance, $75,000, to be paid within six months.

The following ordinances already passed by C. C. were also concurred in so that they become laws as approved and signed by the Mayor: Ordinances granting W. H. Daly privilege to erect a frame building on Fifth avenue, establishing width of sidewalks on Cliff street; granting Joseph Keeling & Co., right to use a dummy engine on Twenty-first street, South Side, granting Mrs. Elizabeth McConnaughey right to erect a frame addition to buildings on Butler street, establishing width of sidewalk and roadway of Bluff street from Gist to Shingiss street.

The following ordinances also passed by C. C. failed to pass Select branch: Ordinance prohibiting the erection of awning flaps in the city limits, ayes 33, nays 5; opening Woodville avenue from Washington pike to Shaler's ville, Thirty-fifth ward, 35 yeas, nays 0; opening Forty-seventh street from the north side of the Allegheny Valley Railroad track to the south side of the track.

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. Shipton, from the Finance Committee presented several resolutions drawn up by the Controller, and providing for the transfer of unexpended balances from certain appropriations to departments where the appropriations are short. Following are the transfers authorized by the resolutions which were adopted:

From printing to Monongahela wharf..	$143 33
From printing to Allegheny wharf..	51 66
From surveys to road department..	597 50
From printing to road department..	157 87
From streets to salary appropriation..	750 00
From printing to city property..	575 00

Mr. Bruce offered a resolution authorizing the payment of fourteen dollars to Messenger Cooper for postage and repairing clocks in Councils chambers. Passed.

Mr. Littell offered a resolution authorizing the payment of $2,686 38, expenses incurred on Butler street extension. The improvement was abandoned after the above expense had been incurred. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bruce offered a resolution expressing the thanks of members to Clerk Morrow for his courtesy, efficiency and faithfulness, as which was unanimously adopted.

The following resolutions passed by C. C. were concurred in: For the opening of Forty-fifth street in conformity with an ordinance for the same limiting the Water Assessor "to three assistants; ins ructing the City Engineer to notify passenger railway companies to repair streets; for the extension of the fire alarm telegraph to the Thirteenth ward; providing for the purchase of a water grappling hook to be kept at the City Hall Janitor's office. A number of resolutions of minor importance were also concurred in.

The dedications of property by Alexander Bates for an alley between Fifth avenue and Arabella street from Shady Lane to Denniston avenue, and for extension of Arabella street from Shady Lane to Denniston avenue were accepted.

Adjourned.

Eleventh Ward Public Schools.

The Eleventh ward, Pittsburgh, School Board organized Wednesday evening with James Shannon as President, and James M. McEwen, Secretary. James M. McEwen was re-elected representative to Central Board of Education.

Mr. M. McEwen is one of the best informed public school men in the city and his re-election to the Central Board is most judicious.

A SERMON

On the Degeneracy and Danger of the Republic.

At the Reformed Presbyterian Church, on Eighth street, the pastor, Rev. A. M. Milligan, D. D., preached to an unusually large congregation Sunday evening. The preacher took for his text, Jer. ii. 21—"Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me."

On this the last night of our centennial year, let us take a last look at ourselves in the mirror of the past and note our tendency.

Two hundred and fifty-six years ago in the depth of a New England winter the goodly seed of this noble vine was planted. It was borne across the ocean in the Mayflower, but was deposited in the soil late in December. The seed was of God's own rearing. Nourished upon the word of God, nurtured in the fires and borne by the winds of persecution to this virgin soil, it was a goodly seed planted in a large land. Our forefathers came here to plant a nation. Educated in the rights of the people by John Calvin and his Genevan Republic, by William the Silent and his Dutch Republic, by John Knox and his Scotch Covenanters, and trained in the same school with Oliver Cromwell and his English Puritans, they determined that the nation they planted should be faithful to God and true to human liberty.

In tracing the signs of degeneracy I would point in the first place to our departure from *self sacrificing devotion to the public good.* The fathers of the Republic were patriots in the highest sense of the word. Driven from their homes by tyrants, they braved the dangers of the deep, the hardships of the forest, the fierce and treacherous savage in his own forage men, that they might have a country worthy the patriot's highest devotion, and they gave to it freely their fortunes, their sacred honor, their lives—every man who sacrificed the delicacies of the table rather than pay the tyrant's tax on tea, the men who toiled and ate their saddle flaps and racked the bones of Valley Forge with their bare and bleeding feet were not the men to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage. They were the descendants of men who had been hunted from their homes and had died on scaffolds, and they knew by experience that "the price of liberty is eternal vigilance," the first sly step of the despot was by them detected and resisted. The danger of to-day is that every one is seeking his gain from his quarter, and the great public interests of the nation receive little attention from the great mass of the people. Either from indifference to the public good, or an unfounded confidence in the safety of our liberties, evils threatening the very existence of the nation are permitted to lurk unheeded in our midst, and even to flaunt their defiant challenge in our faces, without exciting alarm. Christian men give about concluded to resign the nation to the control of the ungodly. The result is that selfish and unprincipled men, and degraded politicians, are put in their hands the entire administration of the Government, and manage it solely with reference to their personal and party advantage. Great corporations which need a broad free trade and great manufacturing interests demand a tariff. Great railroad monopolies demand legislation in their favor, while the country is flooded with diverse legislation. Which of these is right and which is wrong, I do not assume to determine, but simply state the fact that the Christian men who have assumed not patriotism are the active movers of those who interest themselves in politics. Even we who sacrifice our political principles for the good of our country and the honor of our God, are too prone to content ourselves with a silent protest and withdrawal from the political arena, instead of thundering the warnings of God in the ears of the nation and sounding the alarm in the capital, while the great mass are satisfied with casting a ballot or joining in a procession. We have yet to learn that religious principle is a thing too sacred sive to be gained or retained without some cost of both vigilance, labor and sacrifice.

A second indication of degeneracy is our *national ingratitude.* Our fathers and brothers were men who dearly prized and cheerfully made sacrifices for freedom. But it was "freedom to worship God." With this conception on Sunday, "unto God." To set up a government that would honor God and secure the liberties of the people was a part of their religion, and it was with this view that our government was the ordinance of God, and that to resist it was to incur damnation. Hence in their first constitution the covenant entered into by the men of the Mayflower, and the work was done under commissioners chosen by themselves. The popularity of the act consisted in this, that it furnished a ready means for enhancing the value of property, and gave the owners ten years to pay for the improvement. Now, since the bottom has fallen out of real estate in the avenues in question, as well as elsewhere, the owners will only be found too willing to accept a gift of the mortgage which has been hanging so heavily upon them. It is not a pleasant thing, however, for the contemplation of the tax payers in the old city, and in the South Side, who will have to bear an equal portion of the burden. They look upon this as "justice" and "equality" with a vengeance, and are up in arms against the decision.

It is believed that the Legislature has power to pass a general law providing for the assessment of the cost of these improvements upon the property benefitted, by means of a board of viewers. It is useless to speculate, however, in the absence of the text of the decision, which will probably be received to day.

Some significance is attached to the fact that an order has been made for a re-argument of the case of Kelly vs. the city of Pittsburgh. In this case it is contended that general city taxes cannot be assessed upon agricultural lands in the rural districts, because such property does not receive the benefits common to the municipality. The court below held that the Legislature has power to levy and collect taxes for general purposes upon any and all property within the corporate limits of the city; and this, it is held, is in accordance with all the other States, with the exception of Kentucky and Iowa. The case was argued before the Supreme Court last fall, and is now ordered for re-argument.

THE TEMPERANCE WORK.

Speeches by Recent Converts—Meetings All Over the Two Cities—Grand Street Parade of the Signers of the Pledge to be Made.

Mr. Murphy held forth again in the Fifth Avenue M. P. church last evening. This church seems to be the headquarters and all other meetings are recognized as branches. Meetings were also held in different sections of the two cities last night, and all were well attended and quite a large number of signatures obtained to the pledge. At the headquarters the usual devotional exercises began the services of the evening, and the proceedings afterward did not differ from those of the other meetings. The usual complement of speeches were made by the reformed men.

Mr. Murphy said: "The Bible is a work adapted to the human family to day as it ever was, therefore it must remain to guide us over life's stormy sea. Most young men come to disgrace through the counsels of the ungodly; not one young man has gone down in sin but what he can, directly or indirectly, trace it to the counsel of the ungodly. As true as God lives your sins will find you out. Conscience makes cowards of us all." There is no power on earth that can degrade me if I am a true man. Let the curse of rum pass into the pages of history and may God help you all to do your whole duty to-night."

Mr. Hoag said: "I stand here as a representative of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Murphy Temperance Club. We held a meeting in the railroad shops yesterday at noon and obtained over 60 signatures to the pledge. We held another meeting at noon to-day and secured eighteen signatures, and we do not intend to stop until we get every man in the shops, not only to sign the pledge, but to vote for no license."

Mr. Weyman said: "I have sold and drank a good deal of whisky in my time, but it never did me any good. All the money I ever made from its sale went from me as chaff before the wind. I have signed the pledge and intend to stick to it."

Thomas Collins (no envy in) got off a whole cargo of conundrums, which kept the audience in a roar of laughter.

Mr. Murphy at this point said that he had said a visit to some of the principal merchants of the city in order to see how they felt in regard to contributing money to-ward securing a permanent headquarters for the Pittsburgh Reform Club, and met with much encouragement, many of the merchants stating that they would contribute liberally. He also said that at a day in the near future the men who have signed the pledge (some eight thousand) would have a grand parade through the principal streets of both cities. He urged the ladies present to prepare appropriate banners for the men to carry on this occasion.

After this announcement several other persons made short speeches.

Mr. Charles Rose came forward and signed the pledge, stating that he kept a saloon at No. 177 Grant street, but had closed his doors to night and intended to quit the business entirely.

Overflow meetings were held at the following places each of which were crowded to their utmost capacity: Smithfield street M. E. church, Sunnyside Presbyterian church, also at Butler street M. E. church, High street M. E. church, and Arch street M. E. church. The meeting on Sunday evening will be held in Library Hall, admission twenty five cents. Tickets for sale at Hales' music store, Smithfield street, R. H. Ingram & Co., corner Fifth avenue and Wood street, McClarran & McKennan's drug stores, Market street, and Fifth avenue, Harry McGregor, 46 Federal street, Allegheny, and W. H. Shannon, at 78 Fifth avenue M. E. Church. The speakers for the Library Hall meeting will be announced to-morrow.

THE WATER DEPARTMENT.

Meeting of the Committee—December Pay Rolls.

A regular meeting of the Water Committee of Pittsburgh Councils was held last evening, Dr. McCandless in the Chair. The pay rolls for the old water department were approved as follows for the month of December, 1876:

Office pay roll..	$ 574 99
Direct works..	1,220 38
Upper works..	203 18
Forty-fifth street works..	203 18
Engine repairs, &c..	403 30
Street hands..	423 09
Bills for coal, &c..	3,678 11
Total..	$7,043 67

The Clerk announced that a balance of $818 63 remained in the fund of 1876 after the above payments. This has not been the case for a number of years back.

Mr. Acheson offered a resolution returning thanks to the Chairman, Dr. J. Guy McCandless for his courteous and valuable service during the past year.

Dr. McCandless made a neat speech acknowledging the compliment and returning thanks to the members.

The committee as conducting the old works then adjourned and the Water Extension Committee was called to order. The latter committee while composed of the same members of Councils, requires three more members to constitute a quorum than is needed to conduct the old water works business. The requisite number of members could not be obtained and the committee adjourned to meet this afternoon.

Slight Fires.

Officer Laughlin of the city police forces, about three o'clock yesterday morning discovered flames issuing from a small frame house on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at the head of Twenty-eighth street. He immediately secured the assistance of some of the railway employees, and succeeded in extinguishing the fire before any serious damage was done. The building belongs to the railway company, and occupied by Miller from whom one of the master. Smarting under defeat, disdaining labor, humiliated by failure, and restive under restraint, it is not to be wondered at that the unscored of this population should prove an incongruous element in a republic where all men are considered equal.

On the other hand the freedman, reared under the debasing influences of slavery, his manhood destroyed by his chattelhood; his self-respect taken out of him by the lash, the echo chain and the auction block; every idea of honesty, truthfulness and virtue perverted by his condition; ignorant, helpless and degraded, is utterly unfitted to exercise the functions of self-government or to protect himself from the hostile intrigues of his former master. The intimidation and cruelties practised upon, the helpless wards of the nation must make the patriot blush and the Christian sigh, and the God of the oppressed ask, "Shall I not visit for these things? Shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

The *fourth* element of danger to the republic is *Jesuitism.* I will not here speak of the religion of the Catholic Church, but of the intrigues of the Roman hierarchy guided by the order of Jesuits, which, since the Vatican Council of 1870, has exercised entire control of the church and uses it to accomplish its purpose to obtain its supremacy over all the governments of the world. Gladstone, the greatest statesman of England, deliberately declares "Vaticanism inconsistent with civil allegiance," and Bismarck and the Vatican are engaged in a life and death struggle to determine which shall govern the great German Empire. Bismarck declares, "We are not going to Canossa," while the Pope replies by commanding the faithful to celebrate on the 25th of next month the eight hundred anniversary of the humiliation of Henry the IV., the Emperor of Germany, when for three days he stood at the door of the castle begging absolution, while the intense cold in which he was confined, in almost utter nudity, caused him to howl in anguish, while the inhuman Hildebrand and his paramour were reveling in the splendors of the palace of Canossa. His Holiness to the challenge of Bismarck. This ecclesiastico-civil despotism, which for centuries ruled the nations of the Old World, which hunted the people of God to the wilds and drove our forefathers to seek an asylum in this land, is to day reaching forth its ghostly hand to grasp the reins of government here. Five hundred thousand votes controlled by the Vatican and cast in such centers of political power as control the largest electoral vote had well nigh at this time transferred the capital of this nation to Rome, and elected the President of these United States. But no knows little of the character of Jesuitism and of the candidate of its choice who does not know that they understood each other. That day that Roman Catholicism controls our elections the American Republic is gone and the hierarchy enthroned in the Vatican is our master.

The *fifth* element of danger is the secret orders which, under a variety of names and objects, have become so numerous in our land. Some of these have already well nigh effected the dismemberment of the nation and the destruction of the Government, while others are even now engaged in the power of the Government to restore order and tranquility in the Southern States; while others, though disavowing all political character, still, we only one-eighth of the voting population, fill nearly all the offices in the nation and manage to control nearly all the organizations of both Church and State; while with their signs and pledges to keep each other's